pdc

TALES OF VOODOO

SEPT. 1970
50¢

THE VOODOO DRUMS BEAT A TEMPO OF TERROR IN

The Witch's Pit

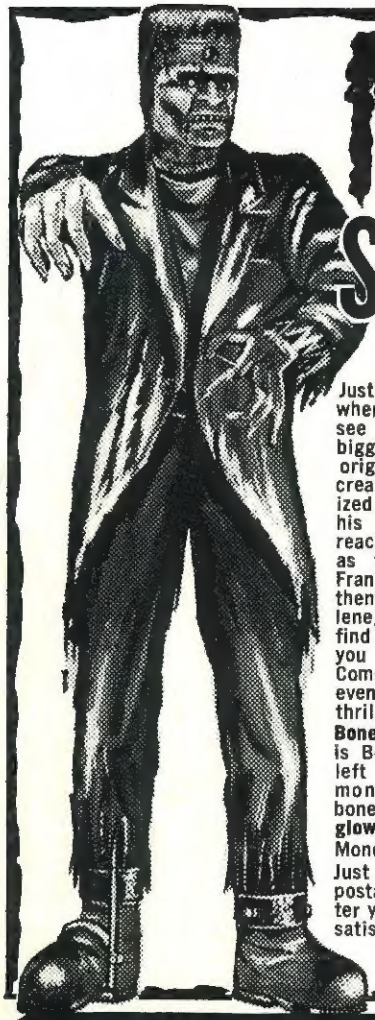
..THE CHILLING

Bloody Head

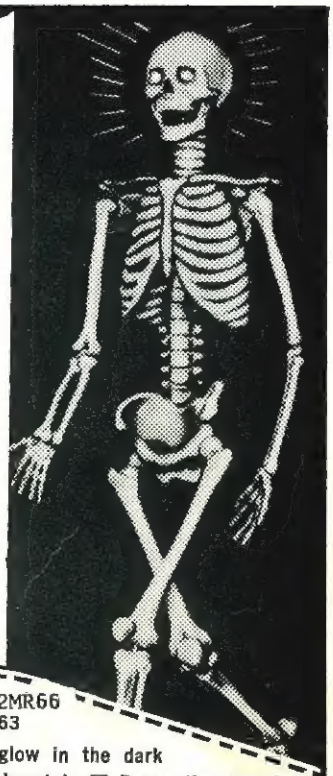
..THE SPELLBOUND

Horrible Thing

PLUS
OTHER VOODOO TALES FROM BEYOND



MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS



7 FEET TALL

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Honor House Dept. 472MR66
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

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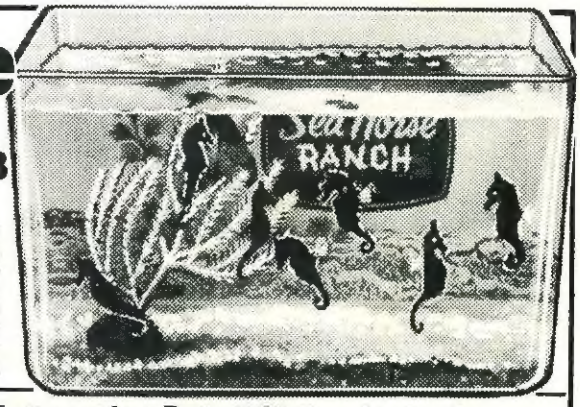

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TALES OF VOODOO

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Alone and in hiding, you escape justice till the bony hand of death beckons. Don't be frightened, open your eyes if you dare. Wow, it's hot down here!

CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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the WITCH'S PIT!

HEE-HEE-HEE! YOU HAVE YOUR TREASURE, JOHN, NOW WHAT!

ON A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS IN ENGLAND...
LOOK HERE, ALGY! IT SAYS THAT MY GRANDFATHER HAS DIED AND LEFT HIS FORTUNE TO ME!
JOHN, YOU'RE RICH! CONGRATULATIONS!

NOT SO FAST! THE WILL STATES THAT THE MONEY IS HIDDEN SOMEWHERE ON THE GROUNDS OF AN ISLAND IN THE WEST INDIES WHERE A CERTAIN FAMILY ONCE LIVED! THE LETTER GIVES THE LOCATION OF THE ISLAND!
THAT IS STRANGE!

HIDDEN! STILL IT'S ALL MINE! AND I'M FOR GETTING IT! ARE YOU WITH ME?
WE CAN'T START TOO SOON FOR ME, JOHN!

BRIMMING WITH LUST FOR THE FABULOUS TREASURE, THEY DASH FEVERISHLY TO THE ISLAND!
ACCORDING TO THE OLD MAN'S MAP, THIS IS THE PLACE!
RIGHTO! NOW FOR THE GOLD! BUT THERE ARE SIGNS OF LIFE FROM THAT MANSION!

WELL, I'LL BE...! IS THIS A COSTUME BALL OR ARE THOSE PEOPLE ACTUALLY--
QUIET! WHOEVER THEY ARE, THEY MUSTN'T SUSPECT US!

ER--WE WERE PASSING THROUGH AND WE LOST OUR WAY! DO YOU THINK YOU MIGHT PUT US UP A WHILE?
SURELY! YOU TWO SHALL BE OUR GUESTS!

ONCE ACCEPTED AS GUESTS, THE TWO STUDENTS BEGIN THEIR FRANTIC SEARCH... FOR THE FABLED FORTUNE!
IT'S NOT IN THIS STABLE, ALGY!
THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING PRESERVED FOR CENTURIES! LET'S TRY THE WINE CELLAR!
NOT HERE EITHER! AND THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING IN A WAX MUSEUM!
WE'D BETTER TRY THE ATTIC! AND LET'S HOPE WE'RE NOT DISCOVERED THERE!
NOT HERE EITHER, ALGY! AND THIS IS THE STRANGEST PLACE!
YES... AND THE PEOPLE IN IT! THOSE COSTUMES! THEY GIVE ME THE SHAKES! AS IF THEY WERE LIVING DEAD FROM ANOTHER CENTURY!
YES... BUT WE MUST FIND THE TREASURE!
YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S WORTH ANY RISK!
And THEIR FUTILE SEARCH GOES ON... THE NEXT EVENING ALGY RECEIVES A VISITOR...
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
PARDON MY INTRUSION... BUT I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU!
YOUR FRIEND, JOHN IS THE LAST MEMBER OF A FAMILY WHICH MANY YEARS AGO WRONGED MINE! I HAVE LIVED FOR NOTHING ELSE BUT REVENGE! IF YOU KILL HIM I SHALL TELL YOU WHERE THE TREASURE IS HIDDEN!

BUT THE OLD PATRIARCH'S WEIRD TALE IS HEARD BY OTHER EARS AS WELL!
KILL JOHN AND THE ENTIRE FORTUNE IS YOURS!
I'LL DO IT! I'LL BE THE RICHEST MAN IN ALL ENGLAND!

HIS PRESENCE UNDETECTED, JOHN STEALS BACK TO HIS ROOM, SEETHING WITH HATRED!
SO... HE'D KILL ME, WOULD HE? WELL... THE TREASURE WILL BE MINE! AND SO WILL BE THE SATISFACTION OF TAKING HIS TREACHEROUS LIFE!

And WHEN THE SEARCH IS CONTINUED ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, BOTH MEN EYE EACH OTHER LIKE LEAN AND HUNGRY CATS!
CURSES! NOT HERE EITHER! I MUST FIND IT SOON!
YES, JOHN! YOU... MIGHT NOT HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY TIME AT ALL! THE TREASURE WILL BE MINE!

(GRUNT!) UGH!
MISSED ME, ALGY... NOW IT'S MY TURN!

AIIIEEEE!

JOHN'S GLISTENING BLADE FINDS ITS MARK!
HA-HA! BETRAY ME, WOULD YOU?
AGGRRAAA!

THAT OLD WELL! IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A CONVENIENT PLACE TO DROP HIS MISERABLE BODY... AND THEN TO CONTINUE SEARCHING FOR THE TREASURE!

GOOD RIDDANCE, ALGY! WISH ME LUCK, WON'T YOU! HA-HA!

BUT AS JOHN DUMPS ALGY'S CORPSE INTO THE WELL, THE WELL ROPE SNAKES ITSELF AROUND HIS ANKLE... FATEFULLY... IRONICALLY...!
THE ROPE! I'M BEING... THE WELL!
AIIEEE!

NOOOOOO...

BUT THE ANCIENT WELL IS AS SHALLOW AS JOHN GARK'S HEART... HE LANDS AT ITS SLIMY BOTTOM SHAKEN BUT INTACT!
SO WE'RE TOGETHER, ALGY! BUT I SEEM TO BE IN BETTER SHAPE TO GET OUT AND CONTINUE THE HUNT!

AS THE MURDERER STRIVES TO EXTRICATE HIMSELF IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS VICTIM, HE COMES UPON SEVERAL RECESSES IN THE OLD WALLS, AND THE OLD METAL CHESTS WHICH ARE CONCEALED IN THEM!
CHESTS IN THE CREVICED WALLS! COULD IT BE...?

TREMBLING WITH ANTICIPATION, JOHN GARK FLINGS OPEN THE ANCIENT CHESTS TO REVEAL...
THE TREASURE!

AT LAST! BILLIONS OF DOLLARS! AND ALL MINE! MINE! THANK YOU, GRANDFATHER! HA-HA! I SHALL RULE THE EARTH!

NOW TO GET OUT OF THIS HOLE!

BUT AS THE MADDENED ENGLISHMAN SEEKS TO LEAVE THE WELL, HE FINDS THAT THE SHAFT WAS SIMPLER TO ENTER THAN TO LEAVE...
HELP ME, SOMEBODY! THESE WALLS ARE TOO SLIPPERY! I CAN'T GET OUT!

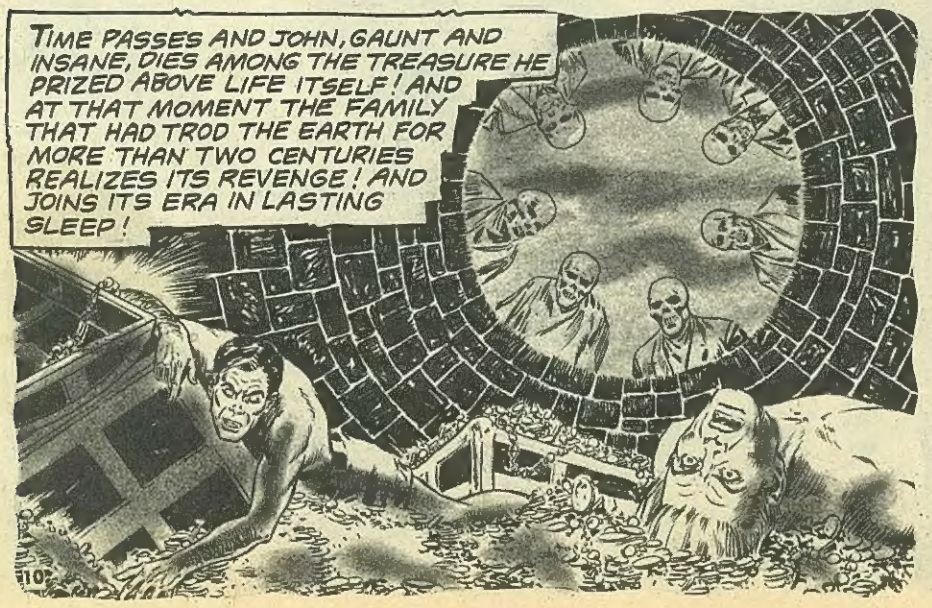
THOSE SHRIEKS ARE FROM THE WELL! OUR LONG YEARS OF WAITING HAVE BEEN REWARDED! COME!

AS THE RESIDENTS OF THE MANSION VIEW THE CRAZED MURDERER... THE PATRIARCH RELATES AN ASTOUNDING TALE!
YOUR FAMILY KILLED ALL OF OUR FAMILY TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, JOHN! BUT WE'VE REMAINED ON EARTH TO GAIN OUR REVENGE... AND IN YOUR DEATH WE SHALL HAVE IT!
YES! YOU SHALL DIE, AND WE SHALL REST IN PEACE AT LAST!

NO! NO! THIS TREASURE IS MINE! I MUST LIVE TO REALIZE MY POWER! GET ME OUT OF HERE YOU IDIOTS! DON'T LET ME ROT HERE!

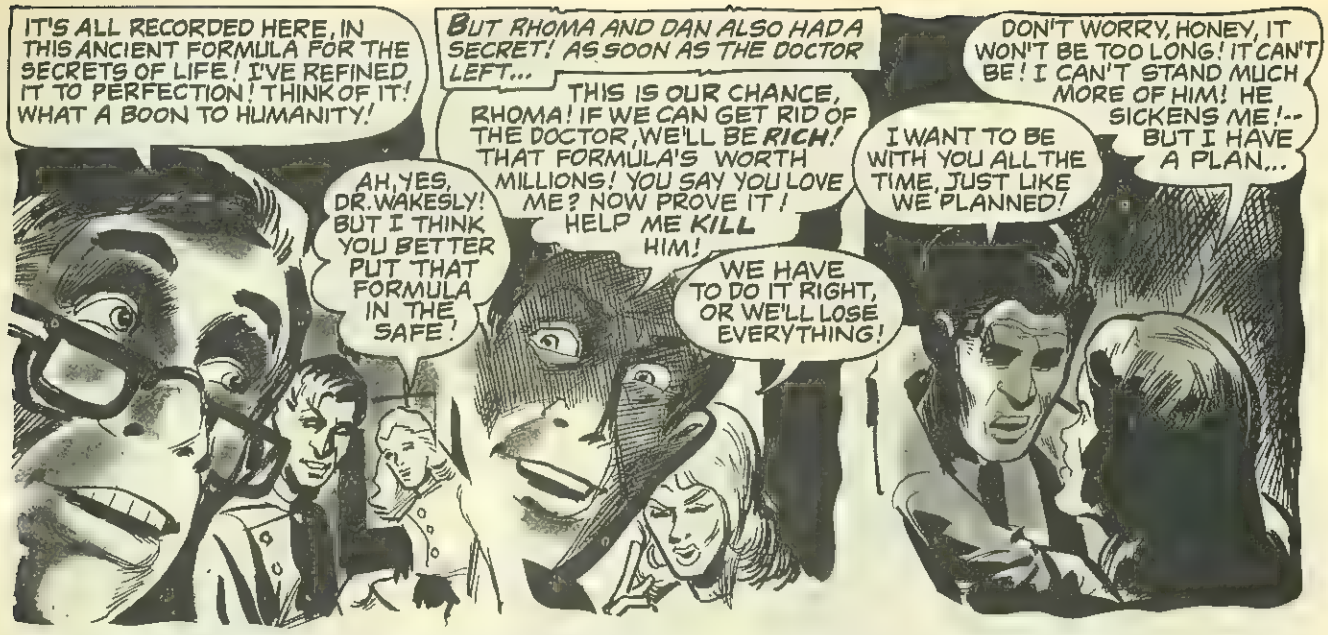
BUT JOHN'S PLEAS ARE MET WITH SILENCE AND THE VENOM THAT HAS POISONED HIS MIND INFECTS HIS BODY!
HA-HA! THE TREASURE OF THE AGES! I'M THE MOST POWERFUL MAN ALIVE!

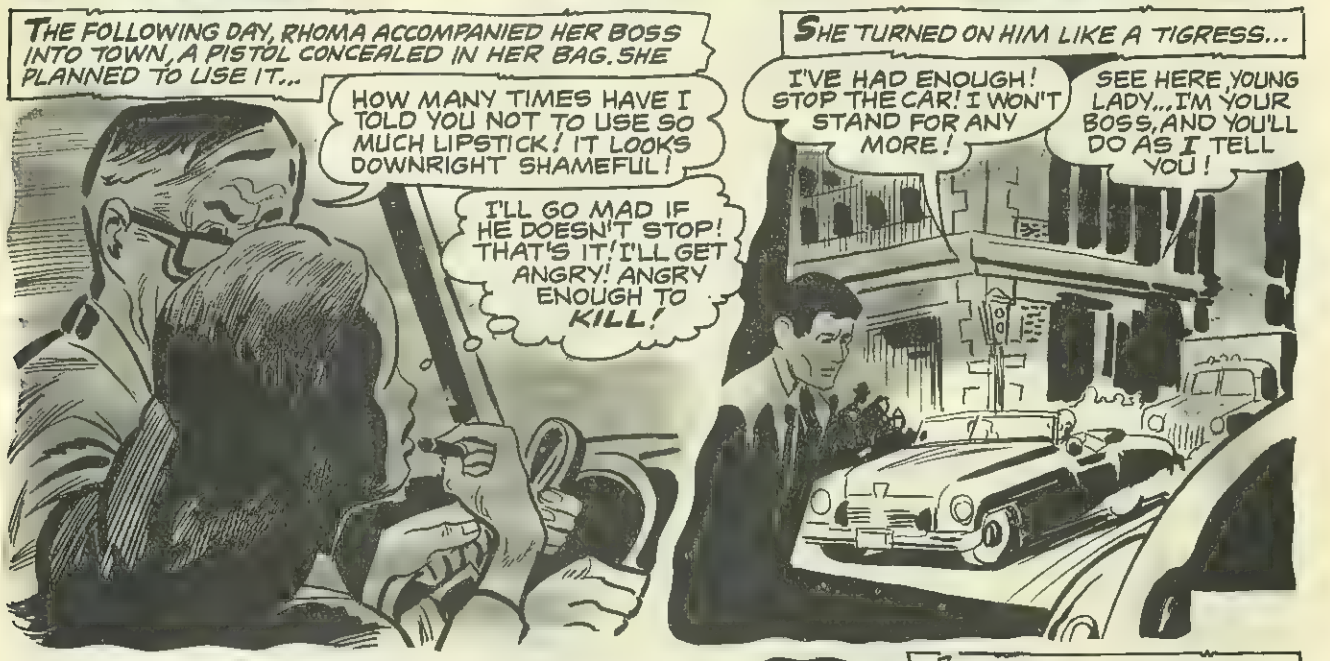
JEWELS! RUBIES! DIAMONDS! HA-HA! I RULE THE WORLD! JOHN GARCK! I AM ALL-POWERFUL! HA-HA!


TIME PASSES AND JOHN, GAUNT AND INSANE, DIES AMONG THE TREASURE HE PRIZED ABOVE LIFE ITSELF! AND AT THAT MOMENT THE FAMILY THAT HAD TROD THE EARTH FOR MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES REALIZES ITS REVENGE! AND JOINS ITS ERA IN LASTING SLEEP!

HEE-HEE! AND WHEN THE FAMILY TURNED TO BONE AND ASH, THEIR MANSION TURNED SUDDENLY OLD AND DELAPIDATED! LOOKING LIKE YOU'D EXPECT A HOUSE TO LOOK AFTER TWO HUNDRED YEARS! HEE-HEE!
THE END

THE HORRIBLE THING


IT'S ALL RECORDED HERE, IN THIS ANCIENT FORMULA FOR THE SECRETS OF LIFE! I'VE REFINED IT TO PERFECTION! THINK OF IT! WHAT A BOON TO HUMANITY!
AH, YES, DR. WAKESLY! BUT I THINK YOU BETTER PUT THAT FORMULA IN THE SAFE!
BUT RHOMA AND DAN ALSO HAD A SECRET! AS SOON AS THE DOCTOR LEFT...
THIS IS OUR CHANCE, RHOMA! IF WE CAN GET RID OF THE DOCTOR, WE'LL BE RICH! THAT FORMULA'S WORTH MILLIONS! YOU SAY YOU LOVE ME? NOW PROVE IT! HELP ME KILL HIM!
WE HAVE TO DO IT RIGHT, OR WE'LL LOSE EVERYTHING!
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU ALL THE TIME, JUST LIKE WE PLANNED!
DON'T WORRY, HONEY, IT WON'T BE TOO LONG! IT CAN'T BE! I CAN'T STAND MUCH MORE OF HIM! HE SICKENS ME!-- BUT I HAVE A PLAN...


THE FOLLOWING DAY, RHOMA ACCOMPANIED HER BOSS INTO TOWN, A PISTOL CONCEALED IN HER BAG. SHE PLANNED TO USE IT...
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO USE SO MUCH LIPSTICK! IT LOOKS DOWNRIGHT SHAMEFUL!
I'LL GO MAD IF HE DOESN'T STOP! THAT'S IT! I'LL GET ANGRY! ANGRY ENOUGH TO KILL!
SHE TURNED ON HIM LIKE A TIGRESS...
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! STOP THE CAR! I WON'T STAND FOR ANY MORE!
SEE HERE, YOUNG LADY... I'M YOUR BOSS, AND YOU'LL DO AS I TELL YOU!

HER MIND SNAPPED FROM THE ANGER THAT HAD BEEN BUILDING UP FOR YEARS AND WHEN THEY STOPPED FOR A LIGHT...
BLAM
SHE SHOT HIM, OFFICER!
LATER, DAN HURRIED TO THE JAIL TO VISIT RHOMA...
GEE, BABY... WHY DID YOU DO IT? YOU'LL GET THE CHAIR
I WANT THE MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT, DEATH! THEN YOU WILL REVIVE ME! EVEN IF THEY FIND OUT THEY CAN NEVER PUT ME ON TRIAL AGAIN!

THE TRIAL...THEN THE VERDICT...
...GUILTY!
THE EXECUTION WAS CARRIED OUT ON SCHEDULE...
I'M GOING TO BRING YOU BACK, RHOMA! I WILL! I SWEAR IT!
HE COULD WAIT NO LONGER! HE MUST RESTORE HER TO LIFE AT ONCE. HE RUSHED INTO THE STREET IN RECKLESS HASTE TO GET TO THE GRAVEYARD...
I'M COMING, RHOMA! WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN!
HEY! WATCH OUT!
B76
THERE WAS A SUDDEN SQUEAL OF BRAKES, A SCREAM...IN HIS HASTE DAN STEPPED IN FRONT OF A HURTLING CAR...
AAARRGH!
CRASH
HE WAS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL AND REMAINED UNCONSCIOUS FOR SEVERAL HOURS, HIS MIND WAS TORMENTED WITH VISIONS OF RHOMA'S LOVELY FACE, PLEADING FOR HELP...
HELP ME... PLEASE, DAN... HELP ME!
I'LL HELP YOU, RHOMA! I'M COMING... I'M COMING!
PLEASE GET ME OUT!
HURRY, DAN, I CAN'T STAND IT!
THEN, AS DAN CAME BACK TO CONSCIOSNESS-- HIS MEMORY RETURNED WITH A TERRIBLE FEAR!
LET ME UP! I MUST GET OUT OF HERE! THERE IS SOMETHING I MUST DO!
I'M SORRY, MR. CARTER! YOU HAVE COMPOUND FRACTURES AND HAVE TO STAY HERE AT LEAST FIVE WEEKS!

THE WEEKS PASSED SLOWLY! DAN FINALLY LEFT THE HOSPITAL... BUT WITH A GROWING FEAR... WILL THE FORMULA STILL WORK?
IT'S FIVE WEEKS... BUT I'M HERE!
WITH SHAKING HANDS HE CHECKED THE CONNECTIONS ON THE TINY REVIVING RAY MACHINE HE HAD MADE, USING THE DOCTOR'S FORMULA... HE SWITCHED IT ON..
I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
A MOMENT LATER A HAND EMERGES FROM THE GRAVE!
RHOMA... RHOMA...
CONSUMED WITH HORROR, HE RAN FROM HER! SHE FOLLOWED CROAKING AND WHIMPERING!
DAN... WAIT! PLEASE... DON'T LEAVE ME HERE ALONE...
NO! IT CAN'T BE! STAY AWAY! YOU'RE DEAD! DEAD!
HE HAD RESTORED LIFE TO RHOMA BUT HE COULD NOT CHANGE THE RAVAGES WORKED ON HER BODY BY THE FORCES OF DECAY...
A SUDDEN CLATTERING AT HIS WINDOW! IT WAS RHOMA! SHE HAD FOLLOWED HIM HOME! SHE CLAWED AT THE WINDOW...
BUT I AM RHOMA! OH DARLING, WHY DID YOU WAIT SO LONG?
NO! NO! GO AWAY!
HE BURST INTO HIS APARTMENT AND LOCKED THE DOOR, GASPING FOR AIR...
I'M SAFE AT LAST!
HE HAD BUT ONE DESIRE, TO GET AWAY FROM THE FESTERING HORROR HE HAD BROUGHT FORTH FROM THE WORLD OF DARKNESS!
OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHY DID I GIVE LIFE TO THAT THING!

RHOMA PUSHED SLOWLY...THE WINDOW BROKE! SHE HURLED HER HORRIBLE, DECAYING BODY THROUGH THE FRAME!
CRASH
STAY AWAY FROM ME! DON'T TOUCH ME! I HATE YOU! DO YOU UNDERSTAND? HATE YOU!
HE MOVED AWAY SLOWLY, BUT A TABLE STOPPED HIM FROM FURTHER RETREAT...
GET AWAY!
DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS, DEAR! WE'VE MEANT SO MUCH TO EACH OTHER! I STILL LOVE YOU!
SHE HELD HIM IN HER DECAYING ARMS...
I CAN'T STAND IT! STAW AWAY FROM ME! THE SIGHT OF YOU SICKENS ME!
HE BROKE AWAY FROM HER! HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE TO RUN...SHE HAD CUT OFF HIS RETREAT...
IT WAS YOU WHO BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE...BUT IF YOU HAD COME SOONER, I WOULD NOT BE LIKE THIS!
HIS BACK WAS TO THE FIREPLACE! HIS HAND CAME INTO CONTACT WITH A FIRE IRON... HE GRABBED IT!
I'LL KILL YOU! DESTROY YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL!
DAN CARTER RAN DOWN THE STAIRS! HE HAD NO DESTINATION IN VIEW...HE ONLY KNEW HE HAD TO GET AWAY!

HIS WEAKENED LEGS GAVE WAY! HE TUMBLED HEADLONG DOWN THE STAIRS, TO LIE UNCONSCIOUS AT THE BOTTOM!
YAGH!
MEANWHILE, RHOMA ROSE TO HER FEET! SHE SAW THE RAY MACHINE ON THE FLOOR WHERE HE HAD DROPPED IT...
THE MACHINE WHICH BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE!
TAKING THE MACHINE WITH HER, SHE WALKED DOWN THE UNCONSCIOUS MAN WHO HAD BEEN THE OBJECT OF DESIRE, BUT NOW HER LOVE HAD TURNED TO WRATH!
HE SPURNED ME! HE FLUNG MY OFFER OF LOVE BACK INTO MY FACE! I WILL KILL...KILL!
THE HORRIBLE THING ENTERED THE BASEMENT, AND RETURNED A FEW MOMENTS LATER WITH A CLUB! DAN HAD REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS BY NOW, AND HE GAPED IN HORROR AS HE SAW THE CRUSHED MONSTER STANDING ABOVE HIM...
YOU HAVE LOST YOUR RIGHT TO LIVE! YOUR HOUR OF DOOM HAS COME!
NO! NO! DON'T!
WHUMP
SHE'D BEEN DEAD... SHE KNEW DEATH WELL... NOW DAN WAS DEAD!
WHAT HAVE I DONE? I'M ALONE AGAIN, THOUGH HE HATED ME! HE LOVED AT ONE TIME, NOW... ALL I WANT IS PEACE AND QUIET...
THEN SHE RECALLED THE MACHINE! CRUMBLING FINGERS TURNED THE SWITCH AND THE LIFE-GIVING RAY BURNED DOWN ON DAN...
HAND-IN-HAND, THEY RETURNED TO THE GRAVE...THEY WERE TOGETHER AT LAST!
COME ALONG, DARLING!
YES, DEAR!
THE END

THERE WAS A TIME IN THE PAST, WHEN RADIO QUIZ SHOWS WERE POPULAR... TOM DIDN'T LIKE QUIZ SHOWS AND HE HATED HIS WIFE WHO DID! SO IT WAS EASY TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO...UNTIL...TOM BECAME A QUIZ SHOW CONTESTANT AND WON HIS WIFE'S...

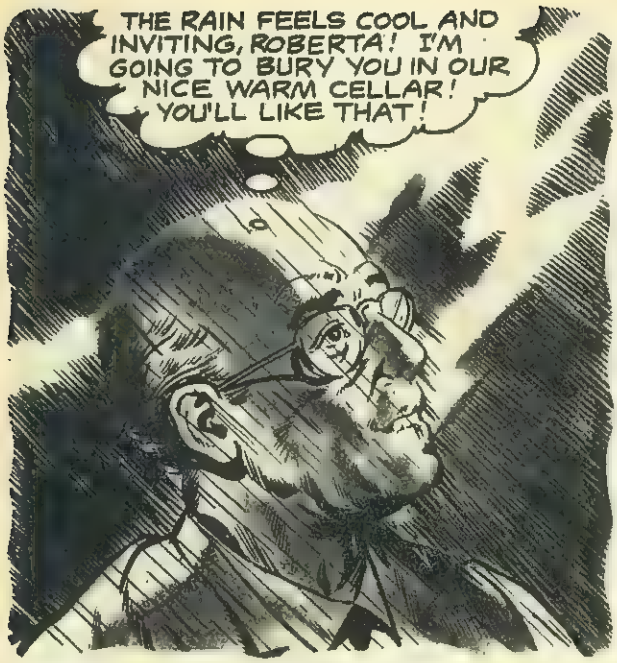
BLOODY HEAD!!

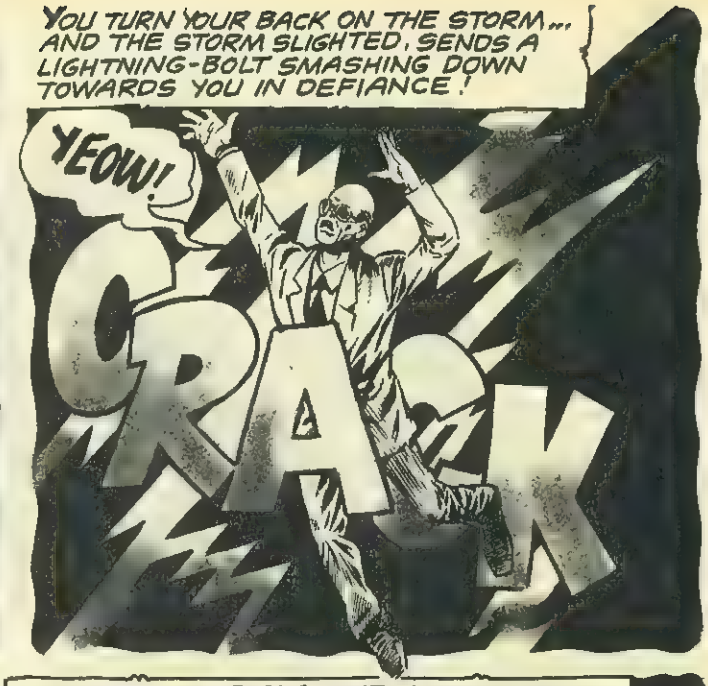
YAAAAAAAHH!!

IT BEGAN VERY SIMPLE FOR YOU, TOM... FOR YEARS, YOUR WIFE ROBERTA GORGED HERSELF WITH ALL SORTS OF FOOD AND SWEETS! YOU DIDN'T MIND, BUT WHEN SHE STARTED NEGLECTING YOU, IT GOT TO BE TOO MUCH!

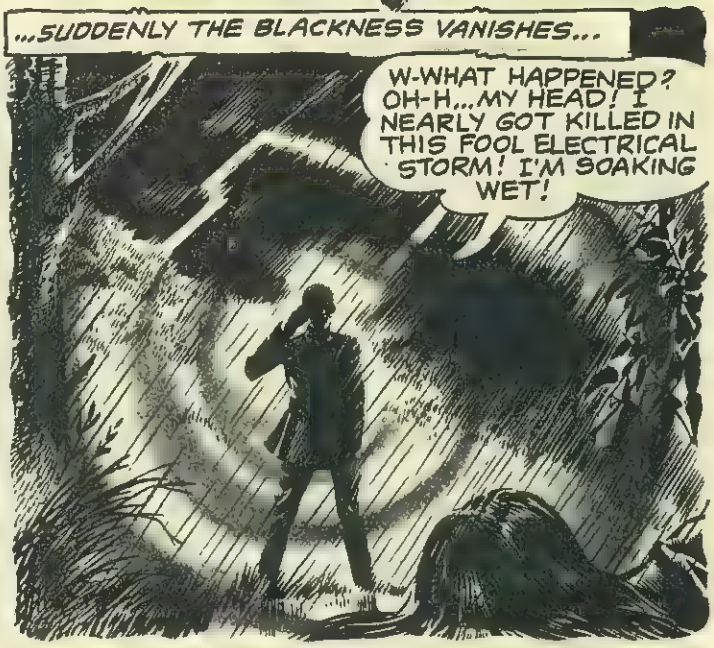
CUT IT OUT! STOP LISTENING TO THAT THING AND STOP STUFFING CANDY INTO YOUR MOUTH!
HOW DARE YOU BREAK THE RADIO?
CRASH SQUAWK POW
JUST FOR THAT YOU CAN COOK YOUR SUPPER!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? ALL YOU DO IS LISTEN TO THAT JUNK DAY AFTER DAY!
--OF COURSE I DO AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO STOP ME!
IF ONLY I COULD GET ON ONE OF THOSE SHOWS MYSELF, I'D SHOW THEM! BUT YOU SPOILED IT!
BAH! I'M GOING OUT!
DON'T YOU DARE COME BACK WITHOUT A RADIO FOR ME! ...DO YOU HEAR?! DON'T YOU DARE!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, TOM? ARGUING WITH HER IS NO USE! LIVING WITH HER IS LESS! BUT YOU JUST CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
GOT TO THINK OF SOME WAY I CAN LIVE IN PEACE! ...GOT TO!
...SHE'S NO GOOD AS A WIFE! SHE'S NOT GOOD FOR ANYTHING EXCEPT TO EAT...EAT!!! GETTING RID OF HER WOULD PUT AN END TO MY TROUBLES...YES...I MUST DO IT!

SO FOR ONE WEEK YOU PLAN EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE SMALLEST DETAIL...YOU WAIT WHEN ROBERTA IS OUT ONE EVENING AT HER USUAL RADIO-QUIZ SHOWS AND WHEN IT'S TIME FOR HER TO COME HOME...
...TAKE PLENTY OF TIME, ROBERTA, MY DEAR! I CAN WAIT THIS ONE NIGHT...
THE LOCK CLICKS! ...THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN AND IN WALKS...
TOM! GUESS WHAT HAPPENED? I WON! AREN'T THESE DISHES SIMPLY TOO CUTE?
VERY CUTE, HONEY! OH, THEY'RE GORGEOUS!
T-TOM... IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG? YOU LOOK STRANGE! W-WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING BEHIND YOUR BACK?
JUST AN IRON POKER, DEAR! HAVEN'T YOU SEEN ONE BEFORE?
N-NO...NO! T-TOM! AIEEEEE!!
CRACK!
IT'S DONE, TOM! NO MORE INSANE CHATTER! NO MORE CRAZY QUIZ SHOWS...NO MORE ROBERTA!
YOU DON'T MIND A LITTLE RAIN, DO YOU, DARLING? THE GARDEN PATH IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN DRAG YOUR FAT CARCASS TO THE CELLAR!


THE RAIN FEELS COOL AND INVITING, ROBERTA! I'M GOING TO BURY YOU IN OUR NICE WARM CELLAR! YOU'LL LIKE THAT!


YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON THE STORM... AND THE STORM SLIGHTED, SENDS A LIGHTNING-BOLT SMASHING DOWN TOWARDS YOU IN DEFIANCE!
YEOW!
CRACK

BLACKNESS... UGLY AND OMINOUS CHANGES INTO A WHIRLPOOL OF DREAD! YOU'RE IN AN ABYSS, TOM... A POINT OF NO RETURN!


...SUDDENLY THE BLACKNESS VANISHES...
W-WHAT HAPPENED? OH-H... MY HEAD! I NEARLY GOT KILLED IN THIS FOOL ELECTRICAL STORM! I'M SOAKING WET!

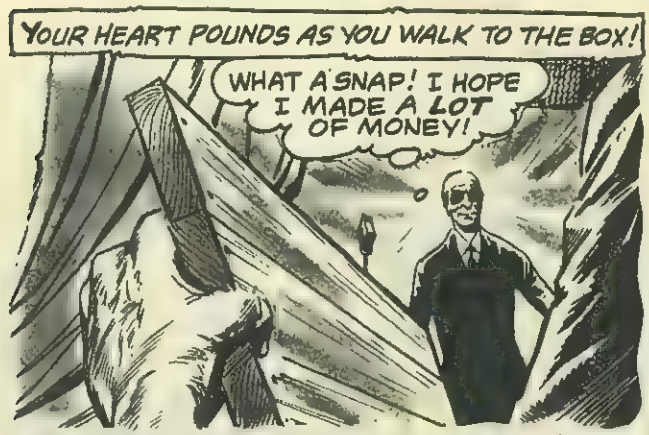
UH... ALMOST FORGOT WHAT I WAS DOING! HERE YOU ARE, DEAR! I JUST LOST MY HEAD FOR A MOMENT! WE HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO KEEP, DON'T WE?

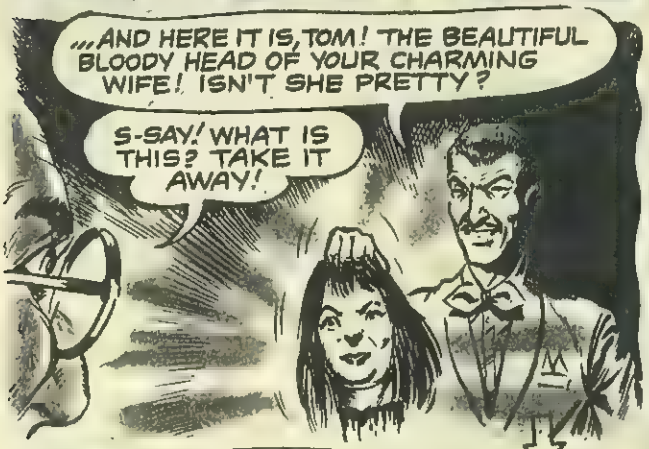
MOMENTS LATER, IN THE CELLAR...
WELL, GOODBYE, MY DEAR! SWEET DREAMS... NO MORE ARGUMENTS... NO MORE COLD MEALS! JUST PURE, HEAVENLY QUIET!

SO, YOU PREPARE FOR SLEEP, FEELING GOOD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE!
WHY DIDN'T I DO IT SOONER? TO THINK I TORTURED MYSELF FOR YEARS! WHAT A HORRIBLE THOUGHT! NO ONE WILL EVER FIND OUT! MY ALIBI IS AIRTIGHT!
AND NO ONE DOES! BUT A FEW MORNINGS LATER, THE POSTMAN DELIVERS A LETTER...
NICE DAY, ISN'T IT, TOM?
IT SURE IS, SAM! HM-M! THANK YOU! I'LL GIVE THIS TO ROBERTA WHEN SHE...ER...COMES HOME FROM HER VACATION!
SECONDS LATER, INSIDE YOUR HALLWAY...
I THOUGHT SO! A QUIZ SHOW TICKET! I'LL JUST TEAR IT UP...
...WAIT! WHY NOT GO TO ONE OF THOSE PROGRAMS MYSELF? A SORT OF "STAND-IN" FOR ROBERTA! IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR HER, POOR THING!
THAT NIGHT YOU GO TO THE RADIO SHOW AND WONDER OF WONDERS, YOU ARE SELECTED AS A CONTESTANT! ...SILENTLY YOU WAIT IN THE WINGS FOR YOUR TURN...
...OH, I'M SORRY! THE CORRECT ANSWER WAS "643!" BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!
...SHUCKS, I KNEW IT WAS 643! JUST WAIT UNTIL I GET UP THERE!
...IT'S YOUR TURN NOW, TOM!
...THE ANSWER IS... JOHN QUINCY ADAMS!
--YOU'RE CORRECT, SIR! AND NOW FOR THE JACKPOT QUESTION!

...APPROXIMATELY HOW OLD IS THE UNIVERSE?
OH! I JUST READ ABOUT IT...IT'S ABOUT THREE BILLION YEARS OLD!

ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, SIR! IT'S A PLEASURE TO HAVE A MAN LIKE YOU HERE WITH US! YOU'VE WON THE ENTIRE JACKPOT!
STEP THIS WAY, SIR AND OPEN THE JACK-POT BOX! YOU'RE A LUCKY MAN, TOM!
CLAP CLAP


YOUR HEART POUNDS AS YOU WALK TO THE BOX!
WHAT A SNAP! I HOPE I MADE A LOT OF MONEY!

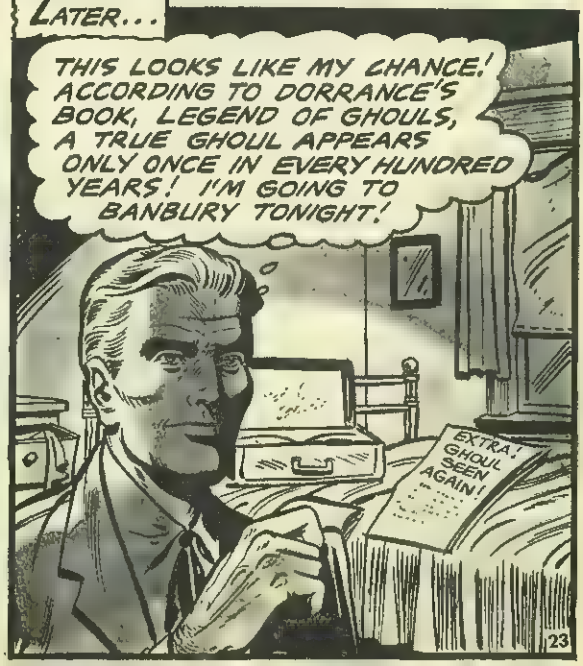

...AND HERE IT IS, TOM! THE BEAUTIFUL BLOODY HEAD OF YOUR CHARMING WIFE! ISN'T SHE PRETTY?
S-SAY! WHAT IS THIS? TAKE IT AWAY!

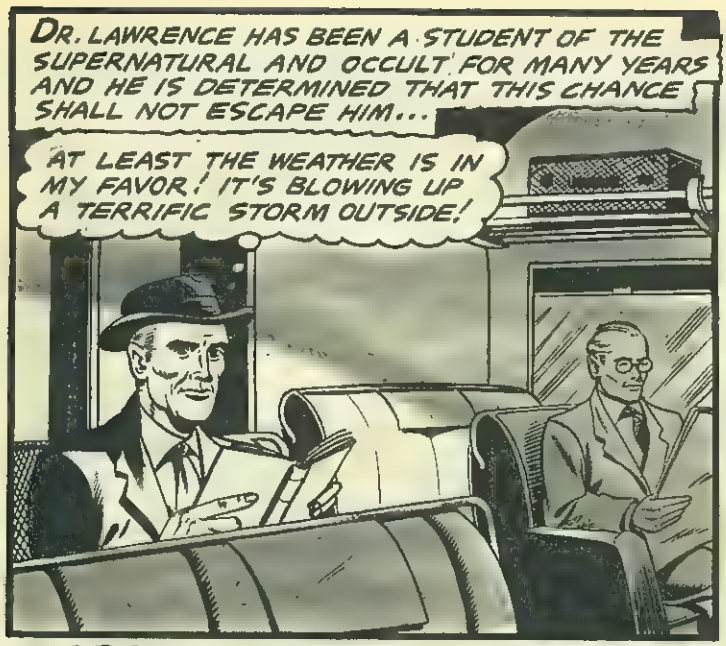
I CAN'T, SIR! YOU'VE WON IT! IT'S YOURS! HERE... TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU!
W-WHO ARE YOU?

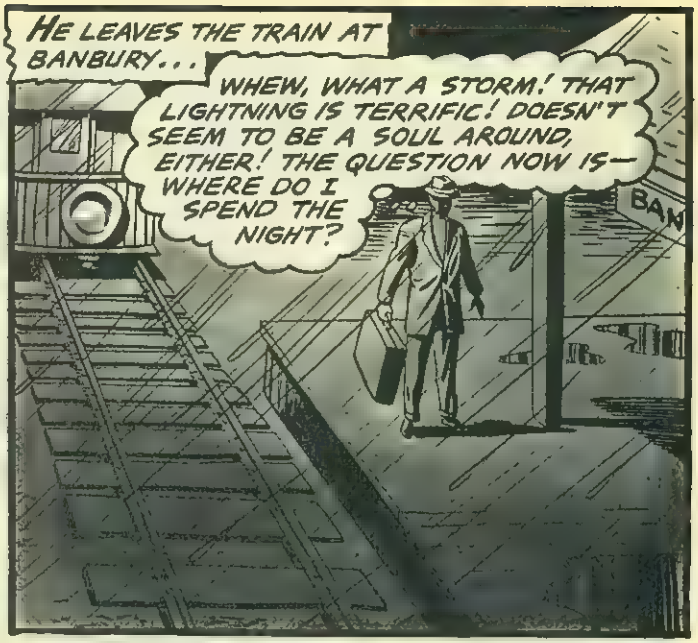
...CAN'T YOU GUESS, TOM? THE LIGHTNING KILLED YOU! NOW DO YOU WANT TO TRY FOR THE SUPER JACKPOT QUESTION? ...AH, I SEE YOU UNDERSTAND!
THE END

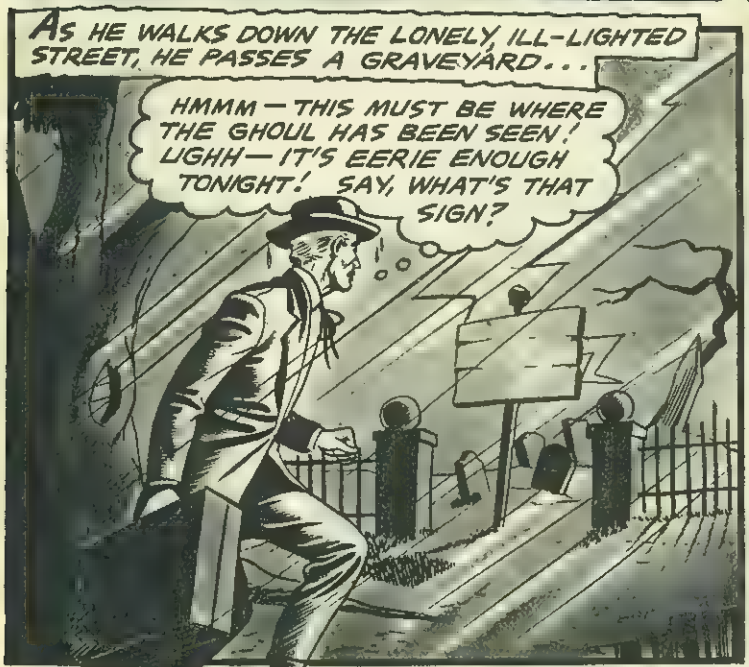
Gravestone for Gratis

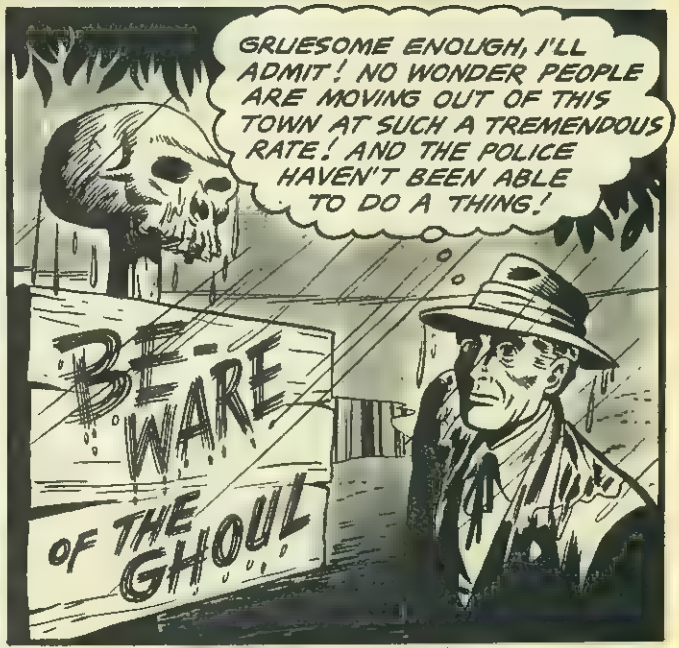
IT WASN'T HUMAN—OR WAS IT? THIS CREATURE OF THE NIGHT, THIS HORROR ESCAPED FROM A NIGHTMARE, THAT PROWLED AMID THE DARK TOMBS, ITS FANGS READY TO RIP AND TEAR ANYTHING THAT STOOD IN ITS PATH! DOCTOR TED LAWRENCE WANTED TO FIND OUT THE ANSWERS, SO HE WENT TO A FRIGHTENED TOWN AND DARED TO SEEK OUT **THE GRUESOME THING...**

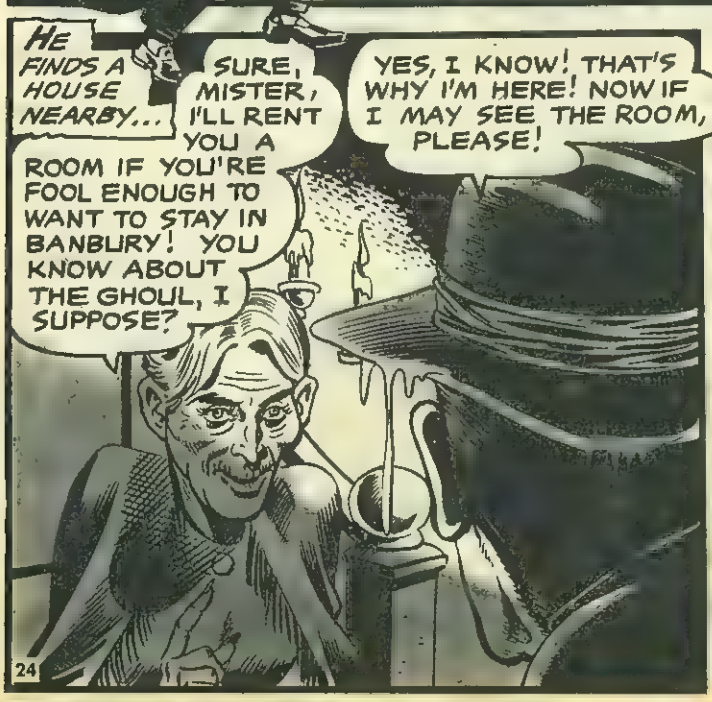



DR. LAWRENCE HAS BEEN A STUDENT OF THE SUPERNATURAL AND OCCULT FOR MANY YEARS AND HE IS DETERMINED THAT THIS CHANCE SHALL NOT ESCAPE HIM...
AT LEAST THE WEATHER IS IN MY FAVOR! IT'S BLOWING UP A TERRIFIC STORM OUTSIDE!


HE LEAVES THE TRAIN AT BANBURY...
WHEW, WHAT A STORM! THAT LIGHTNING IS TERRIFIC! DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A SOUL AROUND, EITHER! THE QUESTION NOW IS— WHERE DO I SPEND THE NIGHT?
BAN

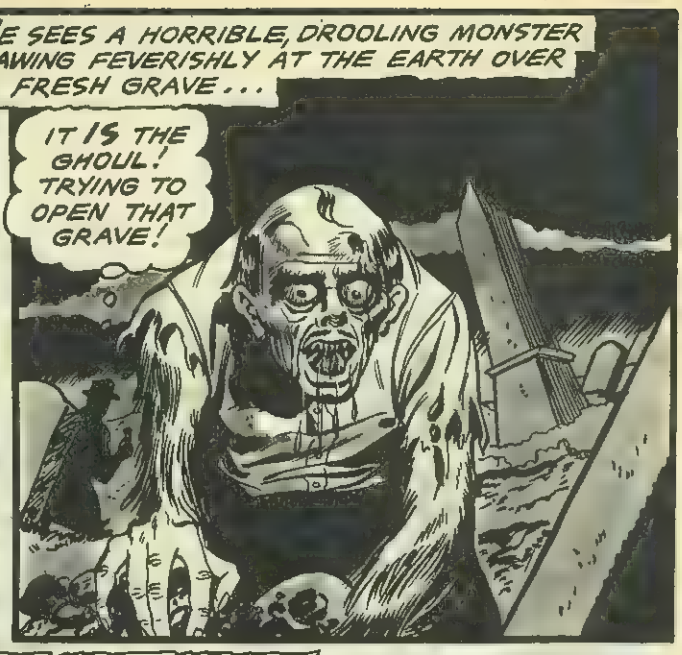

AS HE WALKS DOWN THE LONELY, ILL-LIGHTED STREET, HE PASSES A GRAVEYARD...
HMMM—THIS MUST BE WHERE THE GHOUL HAS BEEN SEEN! UGHH—IT'S EERIE ENOUGH TONIGHT! SAY, WHAT'S THAT SIGN?


GRUESOME ENOUGH, I'LL ADMIT! NO WONDER PEOPLE ARE MOVING OUT OF THIS TOWN AT SUCH A TREMENDOUS RATE! AND THE POLICE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO A THING!
BE-WARE OF THE GHOUL

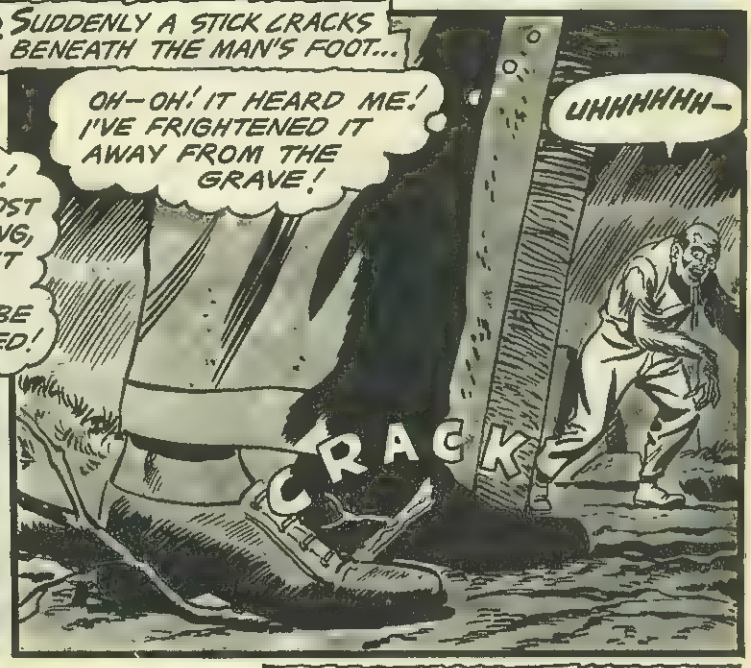

HE FINDS A HOUSE NEARBY...
SURE, MISTER, I'LL RENT YOU A ROOM IF YOU'RE FOOL ENOUGH TO WANT TO STAY IN BANBURY! YOU KNOW ABOUT THE GHOUL, I SUPPOSE?
YES, I KNOW! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE! NOW IF I MAY SEE THE ROOM, PLEASE!

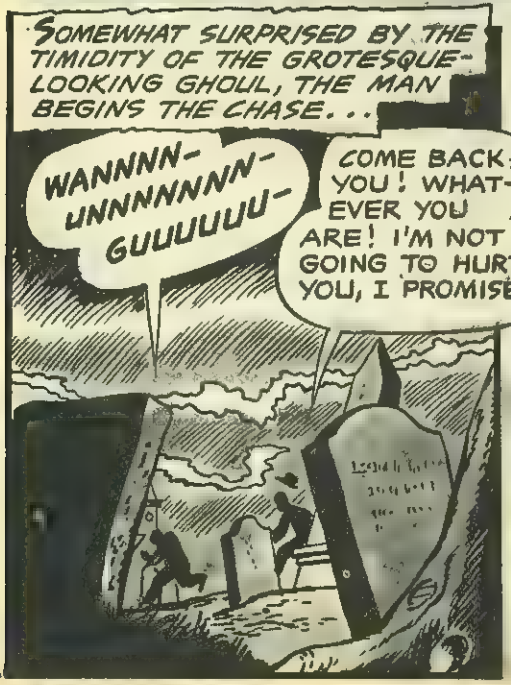
THE NEXT NIGHT, HE GOES TO THE GRAVEYARD AGAIN...
WELL, HERE'S WHERE I SEE FOR MYSELF! I SURE HOPE IT'S THE GHOUL'S NIGHT TO WALK! ACCORDING TO THAT OLD WOMAN, IT HAS BEEN SEEN TWICE IN THE LAST WEEK!

SUDDENLY...
HEY, SOMEONE, OR SOMETHING, OVER THERE BY THAT GRAVE! IT C-CAN'T BE ANYTHING BUT THE GHOUL!


HE SEES A HORRIBLE, DROOLING MONSTER PAWING FEVERISHLY AT THE EARTH OVER A FRESH GRAVE...
IT IS THE GHOUL! TRYING TO OPEN THAT GRAVE!

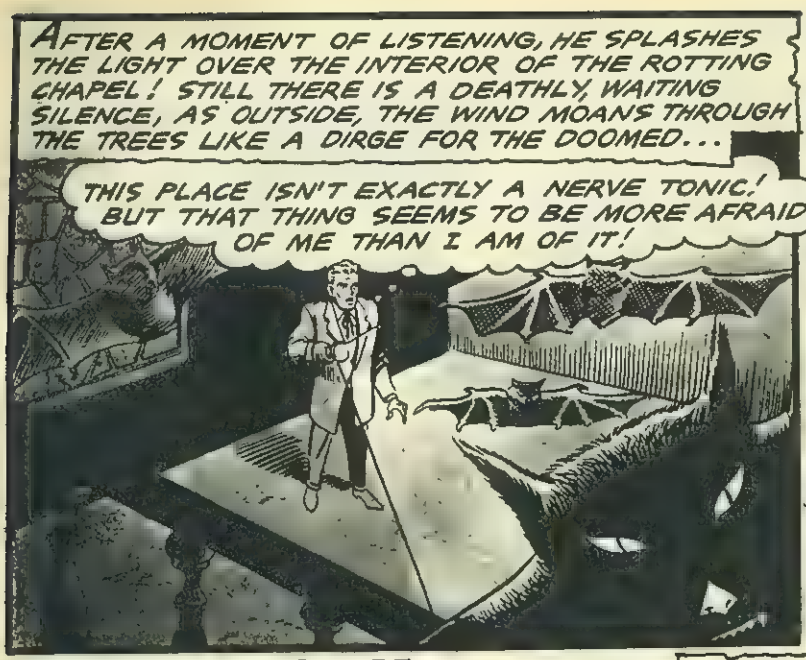
UGHH-NNNN-HUHHHHHHHHH-
THOSE SOUNDS! IT SEEMS ALMOST LIKE IT'S CRYING, SOBBING ABOUT SOMETHING! APPEARS TO BE DISAPPOINTED!


SUDDENLY A STICK CRACKS BENEATH THE MAN'S FOOT...
OH-OH! IT HEARD ME! I'VE FRIGHTENED IT AWAY FROM THE GRAVE!
UHHHHHH-
CRACK

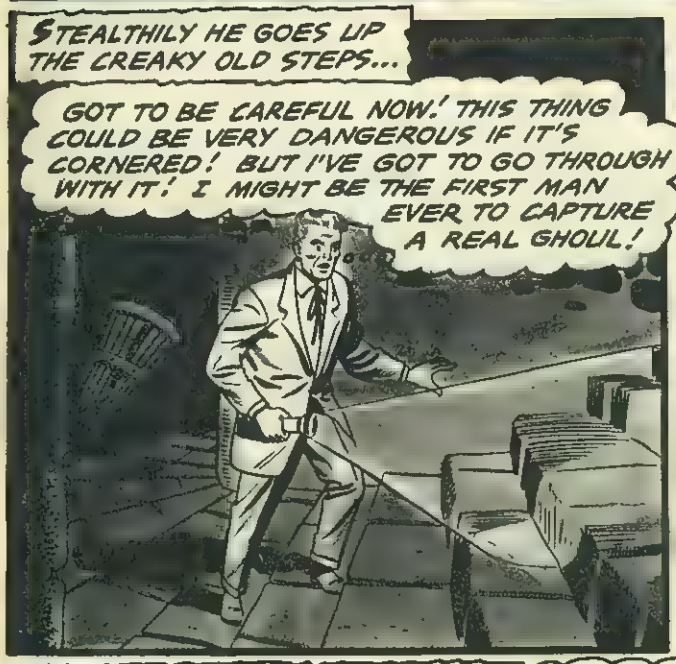

SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BY THE TIMIDITY OF THE GROTESQUE-LOOKING GHOUL, THE MAN BEGINS THE CHASE...
WANNNN-UNNNNNNN-GUUUUUU-
COME BACK, YOU! WHATEVER YOU ARE! I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU, I PROMISE!

IT'S RUNNING INTO THAT CHURCH! HMMM—WONDER IF THAT COULD BE ITS HIDING PLACE? THE OLD LADY TOLD ME THAT NOBODY WILL GO NEAR THE CHAPEL ANY MORE!

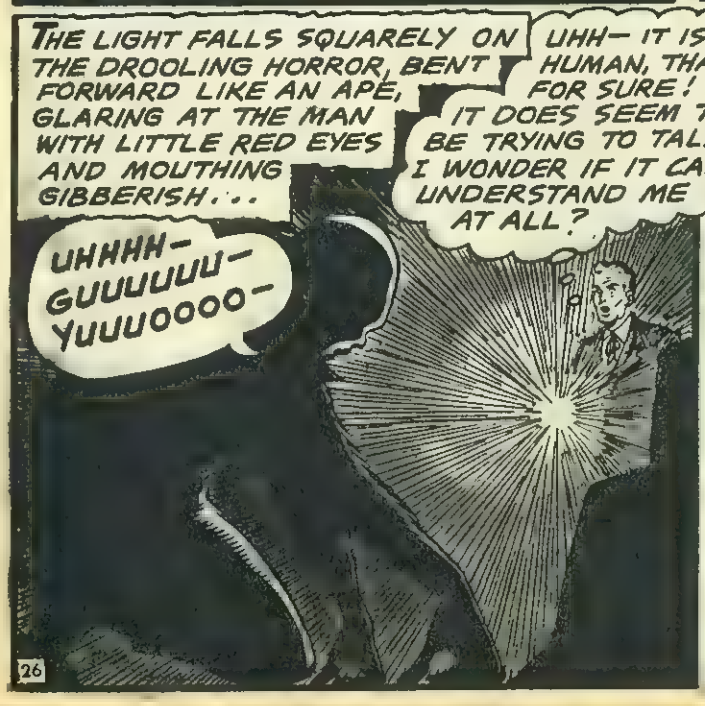
INSIDE THE MUSTY OLD CHAPEL, DECKED WITH COBWEBS AND HAUNTED BY A HUNDRED SQUEALING BATS...
NOW WHERE DID IT GET TO? BUT WAIT A MINUTE, HERE ARE THE TRACKS OF IT'S FEET IN THE DUST! GOT TO BE IN HERE SOMEPLACE!


AFTER A MOMENT OF LISTENING, HE SPLASHES THE LIGHT OVER THE INTERIOR OF THE ROTTING CHAPEL! STILL THERE IS A DEATHLY, WAITING SILENCE, AS OUTSIDE, THE WIND MOANS THROUGH THE TREES LIKE A DIRGE FOR THE DOOMED...
THIS PLACE ISN'T EXACTLY A NERVE TONIC! BUT THAT THING SEEMS TO BE MORE AFRAID OF ME THAN I AM OF IT!

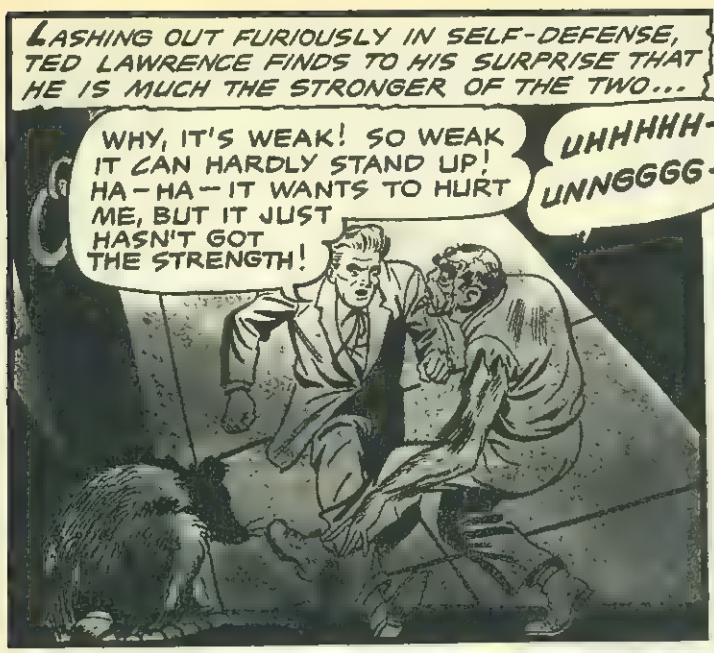
THEN, FROM OVERHEAD, THE GHOSTLY ECHOES OF A BELL...
BONG
BO
BON
BO
THE CLOCK TOWER! IT MUST BE UP THERE! GOT TANGLED IN THE MECHANISM OR SOMETHING!


STEALTHILY HE GOES UP THE CREAKY OLD STEPS...
GOT TO BE CAREFUL NOW! THIS THING COULD BE VERY DANGEROUS IF IT'S CORNERED! BUT I'VE GOT TO GO THROUGH WITH IT! I MIGHT BE THE FIRST MAN EVER TO CAPTURE A REAL GHOUL!

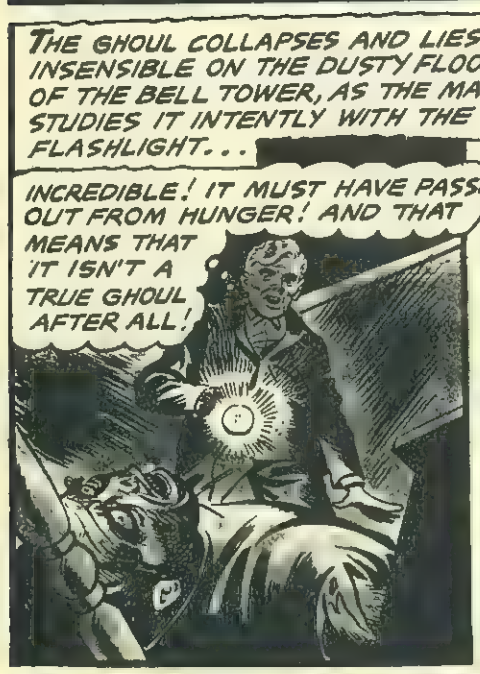
CAREFULLY HE ENTERS THE FETID STENCH OF THE BELL TOWER, HIS NOSE WRINKLING IN DISGUST AT THE ODOR THAT ASSAILS IT...
UGH—THAT SMELL! THIS IS WHERE THE THING LIVES, SURE ENOUGH!


THE LIGHT FALLS SQUARELY ON THE DROOLING HORROR, BENT FORWARD LIKE AN APE, GLARING AT THE MAN WITH LITTLE RED EYES AND MOUTHING GIBBERISH...
UHH— IT ISN'T HUMAN, THAT'S FOR SURE! BUT IT DOES SEEM TO BE TRYING TO TALK! I WONDER IF IT CAN UNDERSTAND ME AT ALL?
UHHHH— GUUUUUU— YUUUOOOO—

WITH A SCREAM OF RAGE, THE THING RUSHES AT THE MAN, ITS EYES INFLAMED WITH HATE...
ARGGGG— AGRRRRRRRR!!!
YAAAAAA— G—GOING TO ATTACK ME! THOSE F-FANGS WILL TEAR ME TO PIECES!

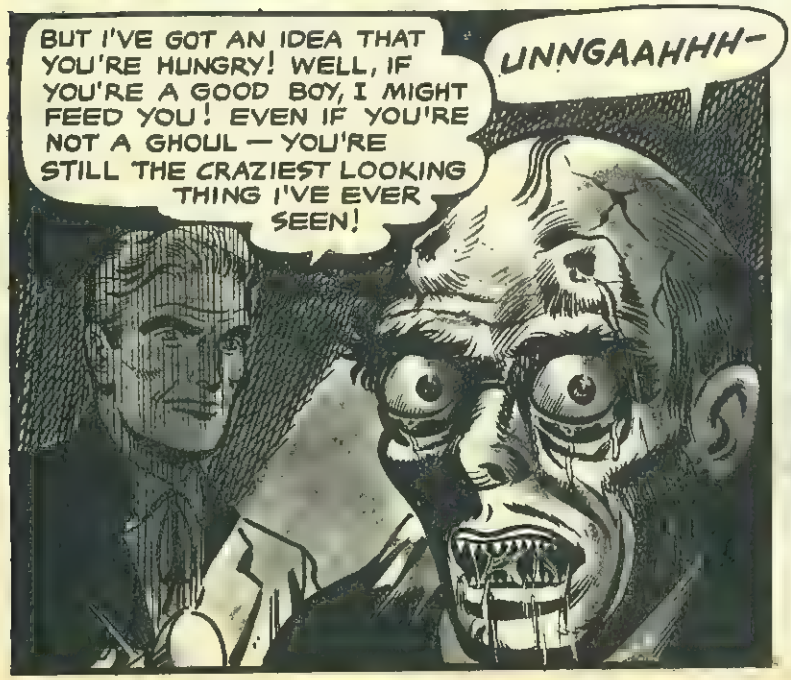

LASHING OUT FURIOUSLY IN SELF-DEFENSE, TED LAWRENCE FINDS TO HIS SURPRISE THAT HE IS MUCH THE STRONGER OF THE TWO...
WHY, IT'S WEAK! SO WEAK IT CAN HARDLY STAND UP! HA-HA-IT WANTS TO HURT ME, BUT IT JUST HASN'T GOT THE STRENGTH!
UHHHHH-
UNNGGGG-

YES, THE POOR DEVIL ACTS AS THOUGH IT HAS BEEN STARVING TO DEATH! BUT HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE FOR A GHOUL—IN A GRAVEYARD?
OWWWWWW-

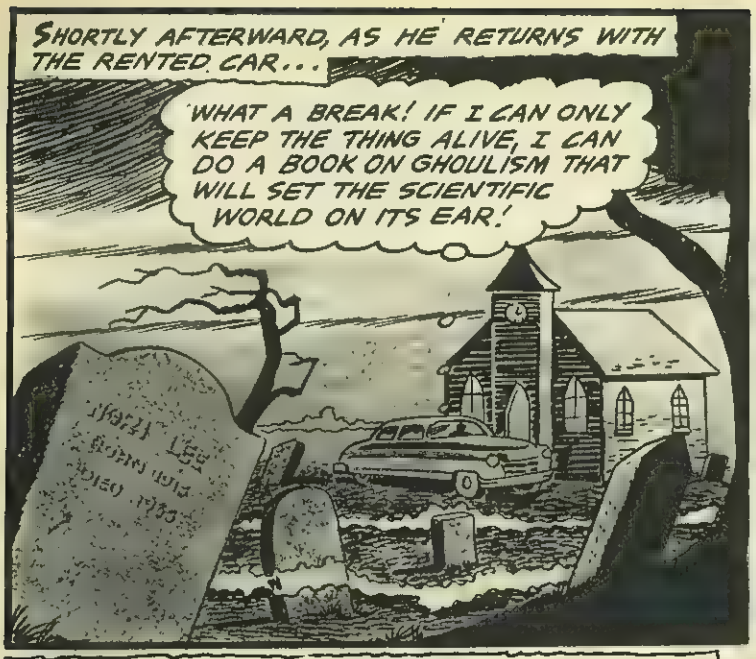

THE GHOUL COLLAPSES AND LIES INSENSIBLE ON THE DUSTY FLOOR OF THE BELL TOWER, AS THE MAN STUDIES IT INTENTLY WITH THE FLASHLIGHT...
INCREDIBLE! IT MUST HAVE PASSED OUT FROM HUNGER! AND THAT MEANS THAT IT ISN'T A TRUE GHOUL AFTER ALL!

THERE—THAT SHOULD HOLD IT UNTIL I CAN GET THE CAR I RENTED! WAIT—IT'S COMING BACK TO LIFE!
GUUUUHHH-UHHHIHUHUH-GAAAANNN-

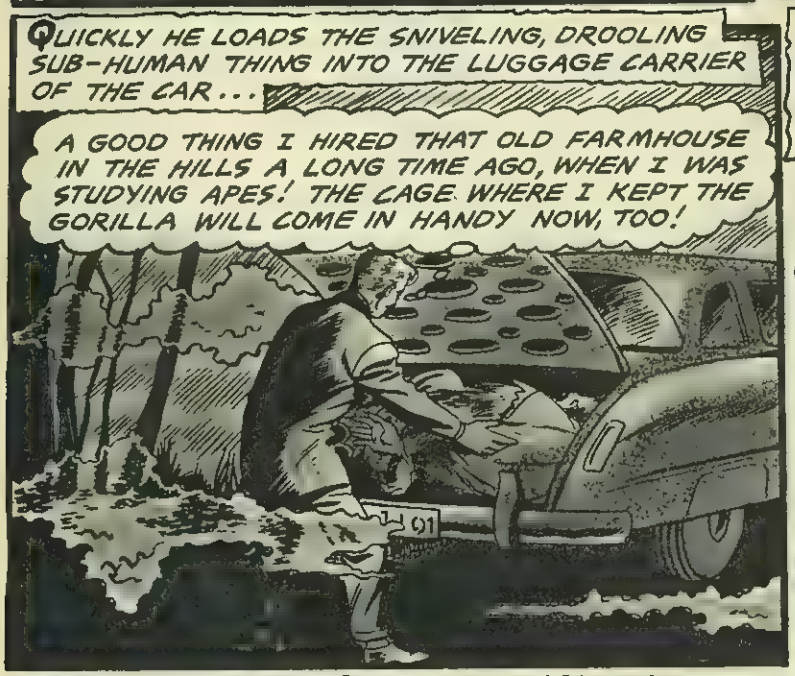
TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING, ARE YOU? I'M SORRY, YOU HORROR, BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A THING YOU SAY!
UHHHHHHH-

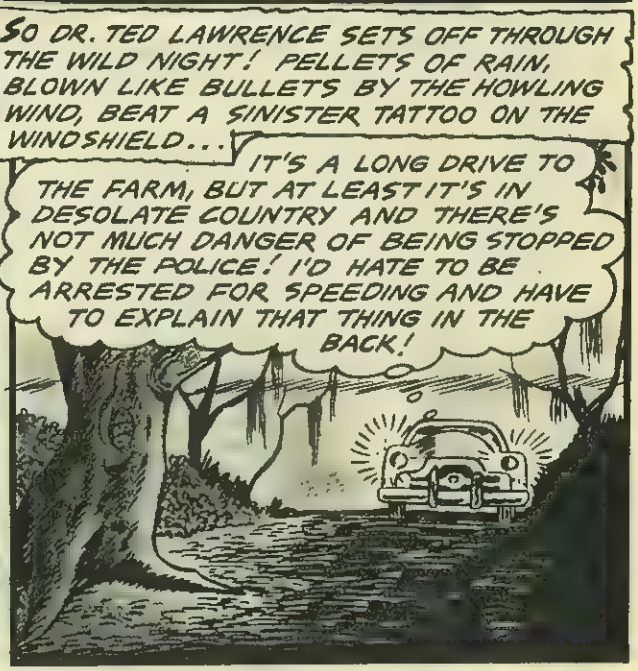

BUT I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT YOU'RE HUNGRY! WELL, IF YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, I MIGHT FEED YOU! EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT A GHOUL—YOU'RE STILL THE CRAZIEST LOOKING THING I'VE EVER SEEN!
UNNGAAHHH-

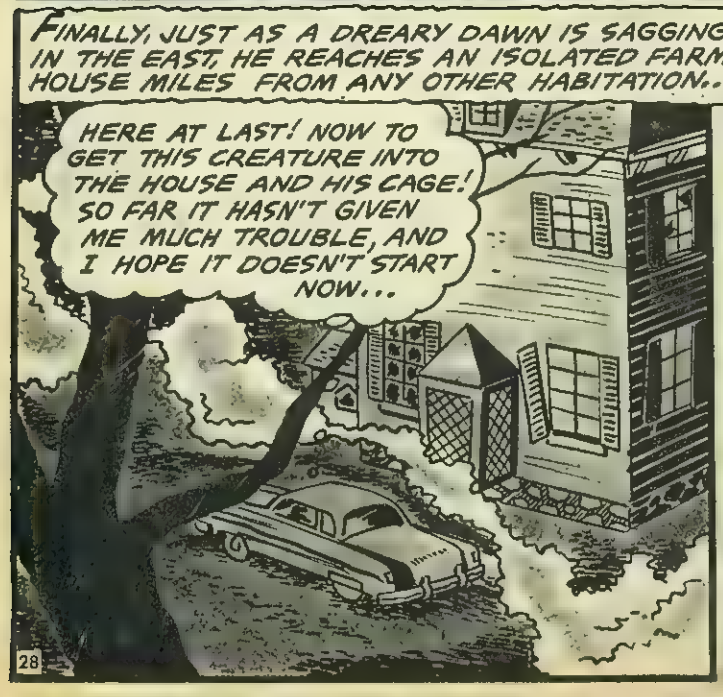
I'LL GET THE CAR NOW AND LOAD YOU IN THE BACK! THEN WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A NICE LONG DRIVE TO A SPOT WHERE I CAN STUDY YOU WITHOUT INTERRUPTION! I MIGHT EVEN FEED YOU—SOME HORSE MEAT!
WRRRRRRRR-GAAAUUUUU-

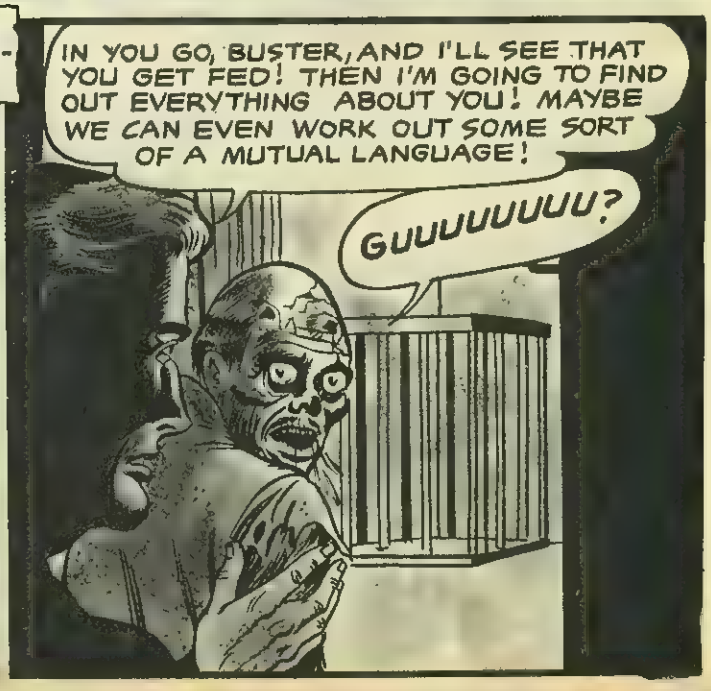

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, AS HE RETURNS WITH THE RENTED CAR...
WHAT A BREAK! IF I CAN ONLY KEEP THE THING ALIVE, I CAN DO A BOOK ON GHOULISM THAT WILL SET THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD ON ITS EAR!

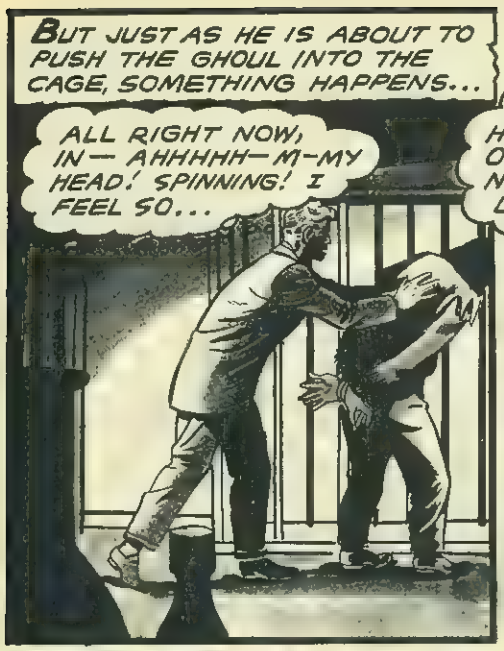
YES, MY BEAUTY! YOU ARE GOING TO MAKE THE MONKEY MAN OF JAVA, AND THE SNOW BEAST OF TIBET LOOK LIKE SOMETHING A COMIC BOOK WRITER DREAMED UP! YOU'RE MY KEY TO FAME!


QUICKLY HE LOADS THE SNIVELING, DROOLING SUB-HUMAN THING INTO THE LUGGAGE CARRIER OF THE CAR...
A GOOD THING I HIRED THAT OLD FARMHOUSE IN THE HILLS A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN I WAS STUDYING APES! THE CAGE WHERE I KEPT THE GORILLA WILL COME IN HANDY NOW, TOO!

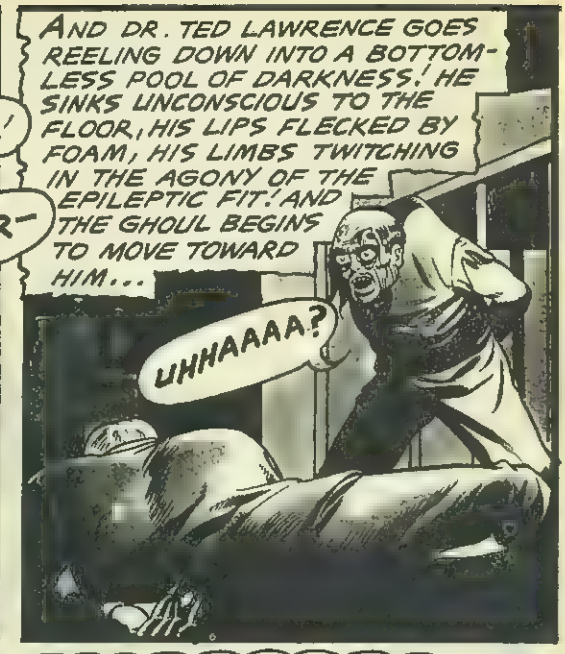

SO DR. TED LAWRENCE SETS OFF THROUGH THE WILD NIGHT! PELLETS OF RAIN, BLOWN LIKE BULLETS BY THE HOWLING WIND, BEAT A SINISTER TATTOO ON THE WINDSHIELD...
IT'S A LONG DRIVE TO THE FARM, BUT AT LEAST IT'S IN DESOLATE COUNTRY AND THERE'S NOT MUCH DANGER OF BEING STOPPED BY THE POLICE! I'D HATE TO BE ARRESTED FOR SPEEDING AND HAVE TO EXPLAIN THAT THING IN THE BACK!


FINALLY, JUST AS A DREARY DAWN IS SAGGING IN THE EAST, HE REACHES AN ISOLATED FARMHOUSE MILES FROM ANY OTHER HABITATION...
HERE AT LAST! NOW TO GET THIS CREATURE INTO THE HOUSE AND HIS CAGE! SO FAR IT HASN'T GIVEN ME MUCH TROUBLE, AND I HOPE IT DOESN'T START NOW...

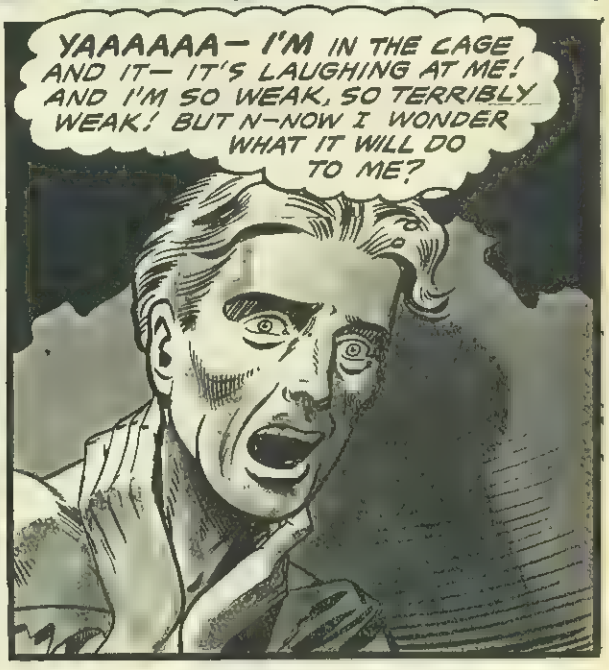

IN YOU GO, BUSTER, AND I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET FED! THEN I'M GOING TO FIND OUT EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU! MAYBE WE CAN EVEN WORK OUT SOME SORT OF A MUTUAL LANGUAGE!
GUUUUUUUU?

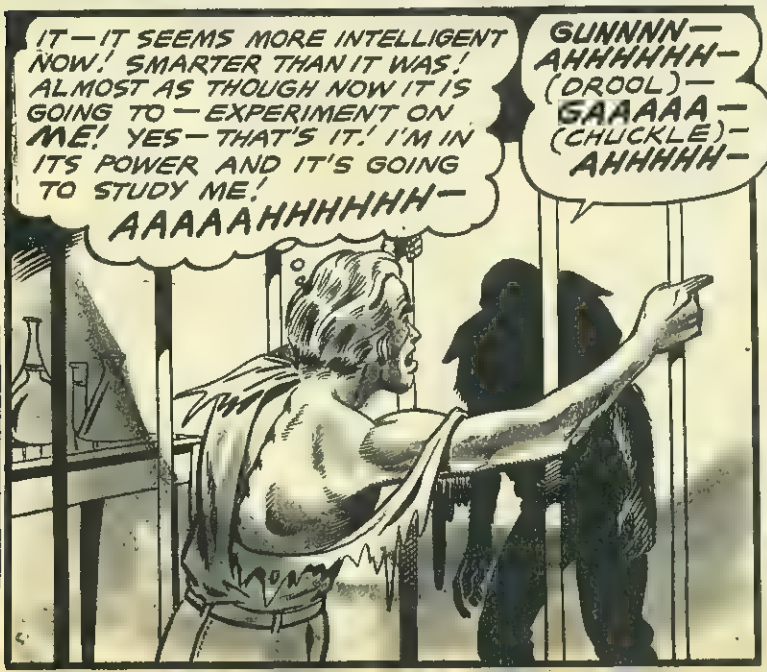

BUT JUST AS HE IS ABOUT TO PUSH THE GHOUL INTO THE CAGE, SOMETHING HAPPENS...
ALL RIGHT NOW, IN— AHHHHH—M-MY HEAD! SPINNING! I FEEL SO...

HE KNOWS WHAT IS HAPPENING TO HIM...
MY EPILEPSY! I—I'M HAVING ANOTHER SEIZURE! OH, NO—I M-MUSTN'T! NOT NOW! I— UHHHHHHHHHH—
URRRRRR—


AND DR. TED LAWRENCE GOES REELING DOWN INTO A BOTTOMLESS POOL OF DARKNESS! HE SINKS UNCONSCIOUS TO THE FLOOR, HIS LIPS FLECKED BY FOAM, HIS LIMBS TWITCHING IN THE AGONY OF THE EPILEPTIC FIT! AND THE GHOUL BEGINS TO MOVE TOWARD HIM...
UHHAAAA?

THE MAN IS UNCONSCIOUS FOR—HOW LONG? BUT FINALLY HIS BRAIN BEGINS TO FUNCTION AGAIN! HE BECOMES AWARE OF HIS SURROUNDINGS ONCE MORE— AND FEELS A GROWING TERROR! WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHERE IS HE?
OHHH—SO WEAK! L-LIKE A LIMP PAPER SACK! AND I—I'M IN THE CAGE!
GURRRRR— (DROOL)— ARRRGUUU—


YAAAAAA—I'M IN THE CAGE AND IT—IT'S LAUGHING AT ME! AND I'M SO WEAK, SO TERRIBLY WEAK! BUT N-NOW I WONDER WHAT IT WILL DO TO ME?


IT—IT SEEMS MORE INTELLIGENT NOW! SMARTER THAN IT WAS! ALMOST AS THOUGH NOW IT IS GOING TO—EXPERIMENT ON ME! YES—THAT'S IT! I'M IN ITS POWER AND IT'S GOING TO STUDY ME! AAAAAHHHHHH—
GUNNNN— AHHHHHH— (DROOL)— GAAAAA— (CHUCKLE)— AHHHHH—

AND, AS THE GLOATING FACE OF THE THING CAME CLOSER, ALL DR. TED LAWRENCE COULD DO WAS TO SCREAM— AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN...
The End

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WITCH or WIDOW

HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH— HERE IS THE **REAL** STORY OF THE OLD LADY WHO LIVED IN A SHOE! HEE-HEE-HEE!

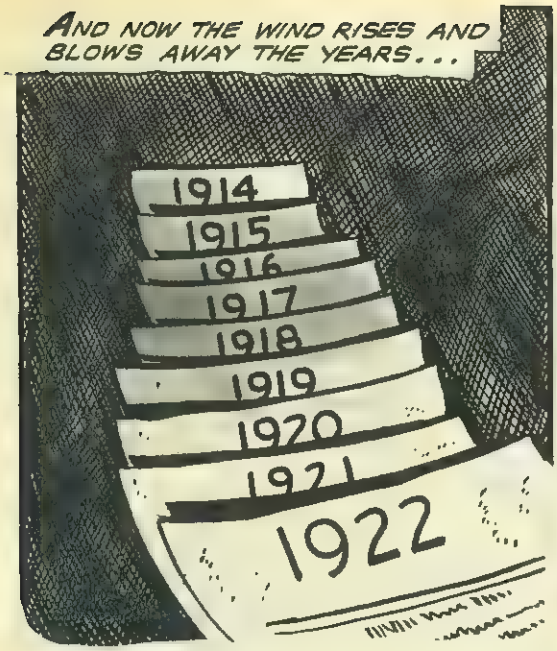
YES, FOLKS... THERE REALLY **WAS** AN OLD LADY WHO LIVED IN A SHOE! BUT THE REAL, THE TRUE STORY, ISN'T QUITE THE WAY YOU'VE ALWAYS HEARD IT! SO NOW, IF YOU WANT THE **TRUTH**, READ ABOUT THE OLD GIRL AND **THE SEVEN SINS...**

BACK IN 1902, IN A CERTAIN LITTLE TOWN IN NEW ENGLAND, THERE WAS A VERY RICH MAN NAMED PHILIP WUXTON...

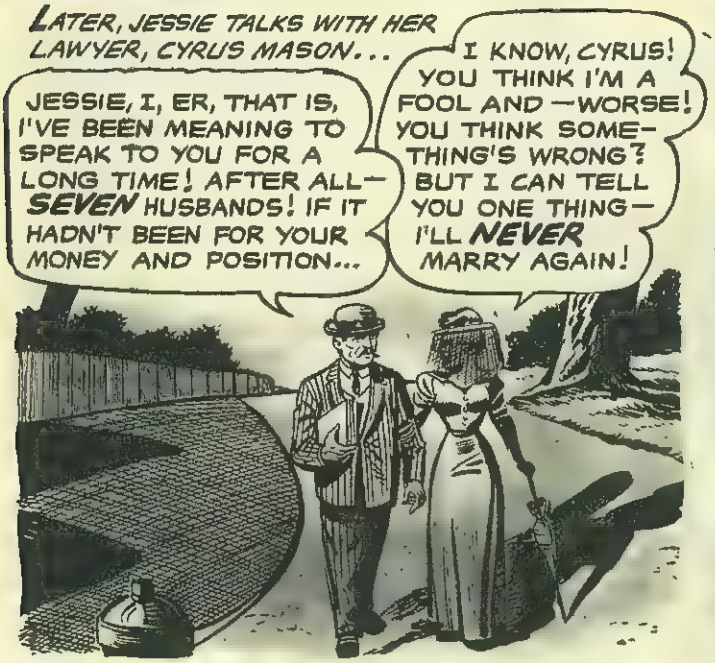
PHILIP WUXTON WAS ALSO ECCENTRIC! HE BUILT A MANSION FOR HIS NEW BRIDE—IN THE SHAPE OF A SHOE...

AND JESSIE WUXTON DID LOVE IT—OR HER HUSBAND'S MONEY! ANYWAY...
DO YOU REALLY LIKE IT, JESSIE? YOU DON'T THINK I'M CRAZY THE WAY EVERYBODY ELSE DOES?
PHILIP! YOU MUSTN'T THINK SUCH THINGS! I KNOW WE'RE GOING TO BE VERY HAPPY IN OUR—SHOE!
AND SO THEY WERE—UNTIL...
I HEAR PHILIP WUXTON IS DYING! AND MAYBE IT'S A MERCY—AT LEAST HE DIDN'T END UP IN AN ASYLUM!
THEY SAY HE WON'T LIVE THROUGH THE NIGHT! SOME MYSTERIOUS DISEASE!
AND SO HE WAS BURIED...
...AND SO EARTH RETURNS TO EARTH! DUST TO DUST! ALL THAT IS MORTAL OF PHILIP WUXTON...
SOB—SOB!
BUT EVEN THEN, FOLKS THOUGHT THINGS JUST A LITTLE QUEER...
FUNNY ABOUT HIM! PAPER NEVER DID SAY WHAT HE DIED OF...
AND SHE WON'T TALK! SHE HASN'T SPOKEN TO A SOUL SINCE HE DIED!
TWO YEARS PASSED, AND JESSIE WUXTON NEVER LEFT HER—SHOE...
SEEMS A SHAME FOR A BODY TO SHUT THEMSELVES UP LIKE THAT! JESSIE IS SO YOUNG AND PRETTY!
YES, IT DOES! BUT SHE NEVER STIRS! OLD MR. MASON, HER LAWYER, IS THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER GOES TO SEE HER!
THEN ONE MORNING, THE WHOLE TOWN IS SHOCKED...
WELL! OF ALL THINGS! IMAGINE—SHE MARRIED THE UNDERTAKER WHO BURIED HER POOR HUSBAND!
Daily Re
JESSIE WUXTON WEDS LOCAL UNDERTAKER—WEALTHY WIDOW IN SURPRISE CEREMO

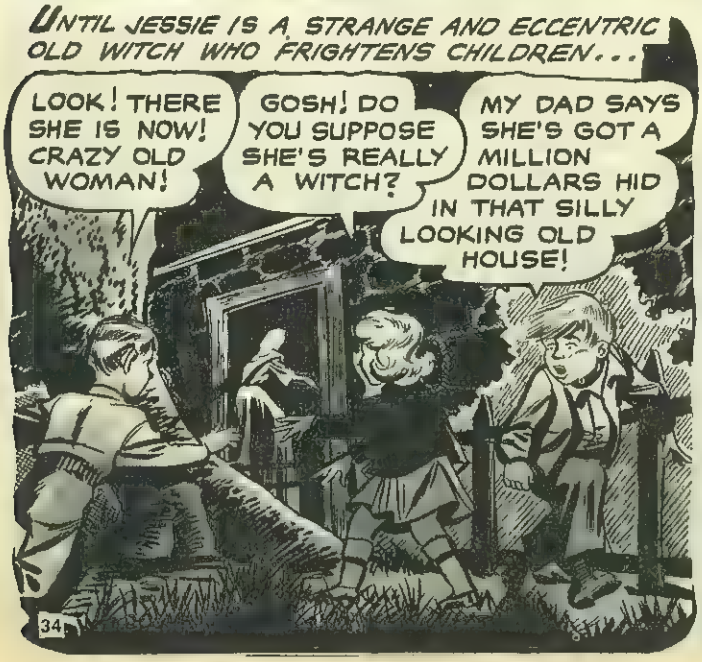
IN TIME, THE TALK DIED DOWN— BUT JESSIE AND HER NEW HUSBAND REMAINED ALOOF...
BUT A CERTAIN GRIM PERSONAGE HAS OTHER PLANS FOR JESSIE'S HUSBAND...
LATER THAT NIGHT...
HUMPF—THERE THEY ARE AGAIN, SHOWING OFF IN THAT NEW FANGLED HORSELESS CARRIAGE! THINK THEY'RE SO SMART! TOO GOOD FOR ORDINARY FOLKS!
YES! THEY'LL—(SNIFF)—LIKELY BE BUYING ONE OF THEM CRAZY FLYING MACHINES NEXT!
PLEASE, M'AM, HE — THE MASTER, IS CALLING FOR YOU! HE'S VERY ILL, M'AM!
YES! I'LL BE THERE IMMEDIATELY!
HE'S GONE! NOW I WANT YOU ALL TO GO TO YOUR ROOMS AND STAY THERE! NO MORE WORK TONIGHT! REMEMBER—STAY IN YOUR ROOMS!
OH, I'M SORRY, M'AM!
WE'LL GO, M'AM!
SO ONCE AGAIN...
G—GOODBYE, DARLING! I — (SOB)—LOVED YOU SO!
MMMM—NOTHING BUT CROCODILE TEARS, I SAY! SOMETHING MIGHTY STRANGE GOING ON!
YES! YOU CAN BET YOUR LIFE SHE WON'T BE SINGLE LONG! I KNOW HER KIND!
UNKIND WORDS—BUT TRUE! FOR IN LESS THAN A YEAR...
GOODBYE! HAPPY HONEYMOON!
GOODBYE! THANK YOU—THANK YOU!
GOOD LUCK, JESSIE!
HURRY, SWEETHEART!
AND ONCE MORE THE OLD—SHOE—WAS FULL OF LIGHTS AND LAUGHTER AND GAIETY...
LOOKS LIKE JESSIE IS HAPPY WITH HER NEW HUSBAND, SURE ENOUGH! FUNNY, THOUGH...
HMMM—I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN! MARRYING THE DOCTOR THAT ATTENDED HER HUSBAND! FOLKS ARE STILL TALKING!

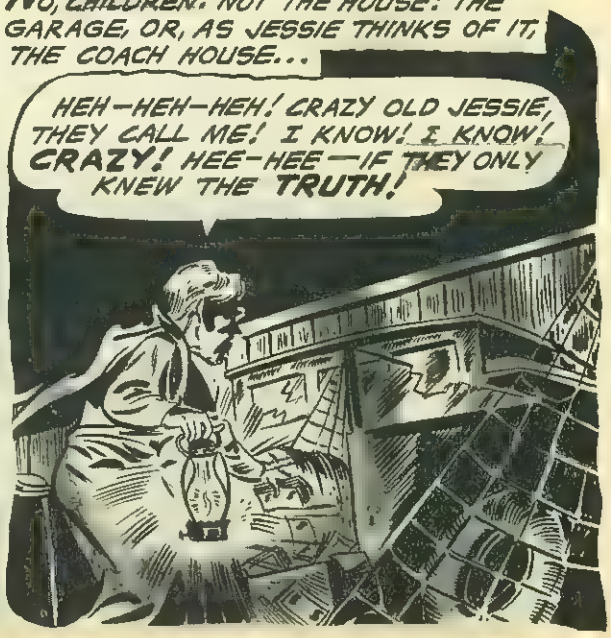

AND NOW THE WIND RISES AND BLOWS AWAY THE YEARS...
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920
1921
1922

AND INCREDIBLY, JESSIE GOES TO THE GRAVEYARD FOR THE SEVENTH TIME...


LATER, JESSIE TALKS WITH HER LAWYER, CYRUS MASON...
JESSIE, I, ER, THAT IS, I'VE BEEN MEANING TO SPEAK TO YOU FOR A LONG TIME! AFTER ALL— SEVEN HUSBANDS! IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOUR MONEY AND POSITION...
I KNOW, CYRUS! YOU THINK I'M A FOOL AND —WORSE! YOU THINK SOMETHING'S WRONG? BUT I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING— I'LL NEVER MARRY AGAIN!

JESSIE KEEPS HER PROMISE AND MORE YEARS ROT AWAY...
Daily Bugle
WAR!
HITLER INVADES POLAND!


UNTIL JESSIE IS A STRANGE AND ECCENTRIC OLD WITCH WHO FRIGHTENS CHILDREN...
LOOK! THERE SHE IS NOW! CRAZY OLD WOMAN!
GOSH! DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE'S REALLY A WITCH?
MY DAD SAYS SHE'S GOT A MILLION DOLLARS HID IN THAT SILLY LOOKING OLD HOUSE!


NO, CHILDREN! NOT THE HOUSE! THE GARAGE, OR, AS JESSIE THINKS OF IT, THE COACH HOUSE...
HEH—HEH—HEH! CRAZY OLD JESSIE, THEY CALL ME! I KNOW! I KNOW! CRAZY! HEE—HEE—IF THEY ONLY KNEW THE TRUTH!

ONE NIGHT, JERRY MASON, SON OF THE ELDERLY LAWYER WHO HAD SERVED JESSIE SO WELL, GETS A PHONE CALL...
BLAST IT! I'VE HAD A HARD DAY IN COURT! NOW WHO IN THE DEVIL...
R-R-RING
WHO? OH, JESSIE! BUT CAN'T IT WAIT UNTIL— OH, IT'S URGENT! VERY WELL, IF I MUST! I'LL COME OVER RIGHT AWAY!
WONDER WHAT THE POOR OLD SOUL WANTS NOW? BUT MAYBE I CAN PERSUADE HER TO TRUST HER MONEY TO A BANK! IT WORRIES ME—THE WAY SHE KEEPS MONEY AND SECURITIES AROUND! IT HAS BEEN TWENTY YEARS SINCE SHE LET ANYONE IN HER HOUSE!
AND...
HELLO, JESSIE! WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT! DECIDED TO LET ME BANK YOUR MONEY FOR YOU AFTER ALL?
HEH-HEH, NOT ME! COME IN, YOUNG MAN, COME IN! SOMETHING I GOT TO SHOW YOU!
WHEWWWW—THAT MUSTY SMELL! BET SHE HASN'T CLEANED UP IN TWENTY YEARS! MAYBE I'D BETTER START INSANITY PROCEEDINGS AFTER ALL!
COME ON, YOUNG MAN! HURRY! THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME! YOUR FATHER NEVER DAWDLED LIKE THIS!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? W-WHAT'S UP HERE?
YOU'LL SEE—ONLY HURRY! I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME! MY HEART IS BAD! I MAY DIE ANY MINUTE!
GO ON, YOU YOUNG FOOL! OPEN IT AND LOOK! SOMEONE HAS TO KNOW, DON'T YOU SEE?
I—UH—WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT, JESSIE? YOUR HEART? AND WHAT'S IN THIS ROOM?
IT'S HAPPENED! SHE'S AS CRAZY AS A LOON! I'D BETTER HUMOR HER!

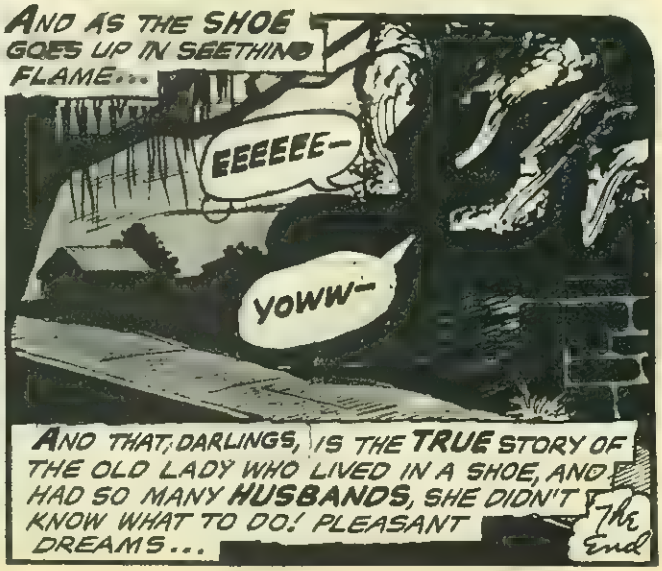
SO, TO HUMOR OLD JESSIE, HE OPENS THE DOOR...
HUH! Y!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!—

JESSIE! YOUR HUSBANDS! YAAAAAA—
HEE— HEE— HEE—
HAH— HAH— HAH—
HEH— HEH— HEH—

YES! MY HUSBANDS! HEE—HEE—HEE! ALL SEVEN! CRAZY, INSANE, EVERY ONE! DON'T ASK ME WHY! IT JUST HAPPENED! SO I PRETENDED TO BURY THEM, WHEN ALL THE TIME I— UHHHHH — MY HEART — THE PAIN—

EEEEEEEEE-

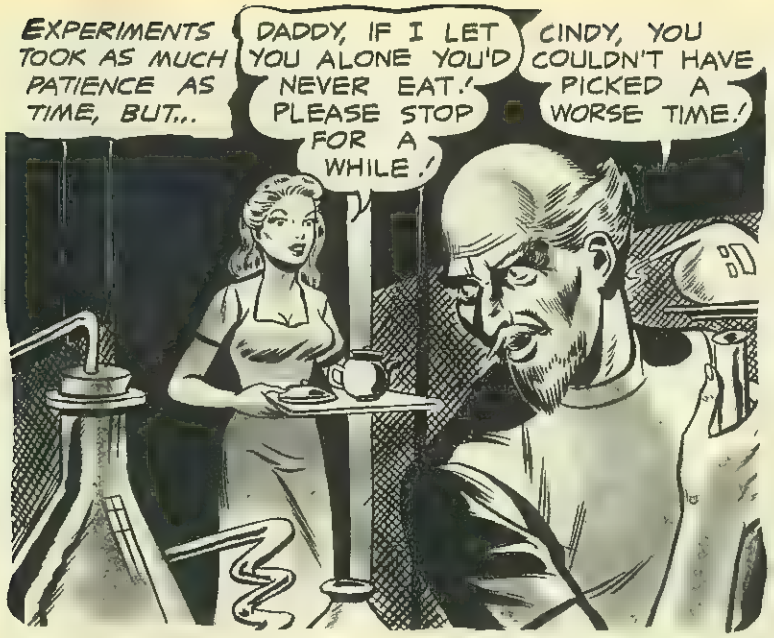
THE SWIRL OF HUNGRY FLAME CAUSES A SUDDEN DRAFT...
THE DOOR —A SPRING LOCK! I'M LOCKED IN — NO! GAAAAAA—


AND AS THE SHOE GOES UP IN SEETHING FLAME...
EEEEEE—
YOWW—
AND THAT, DARLINGS, IS THE TRUE STORY OF THE OLD LADY WHO LIVED IN A SHOE, AND HAD SO MANY HUSBANDS, SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! PLEASANT DREAMS...
The End

MONSTER

THOSE WHO DARE TAMPER WITH THE MYSTERY OF LIFE OFT TIMES LIVE TO REGRET THEIR IMPUDENCE... BUT MORE OFTEN THEY DIE AND TAKE THEIR TERRIFYING SECRETS WITH THEM. WHAT WAS TO HAPPEN IN THIS FEARFUL CASE?

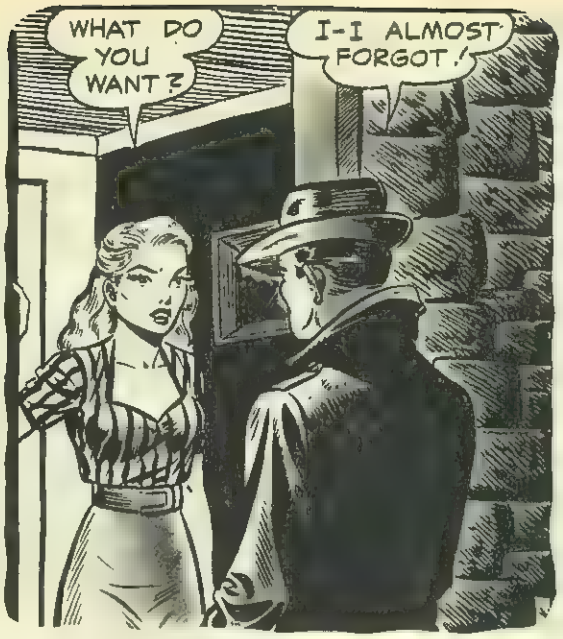
BEATEN BY THE RIDICULE OF HIS COLLEAGUES OVER HIS COUNTLESS FAILURES IN SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS, PROFESSOR HANSON AND HIS FAITHFUL DAUGHTER CINDY MOVED TO A MOUNTAIN RETREAT...



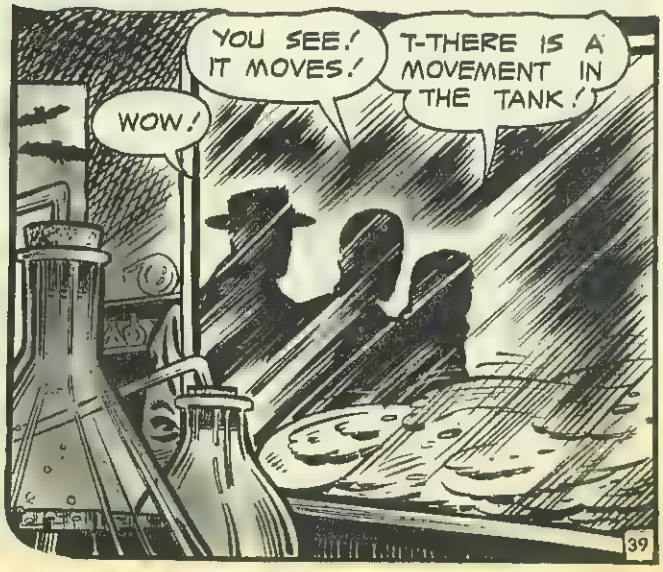
WHILE IN A NEARBY CITY WHERE LIFE WAS CONCERNED WITH OTHER THINGS, THE EDITOR OF A LOCAL NEWSPAPER HIT UPON WHAT HE CONSIDERED AN EXCELLENT IDEA...

IT DIDN'T TAKE JACK SLATE LONG TO LOCATE THE PROFESSOR'S HIDEAWAY AND START OUT FOR HIS STORY...

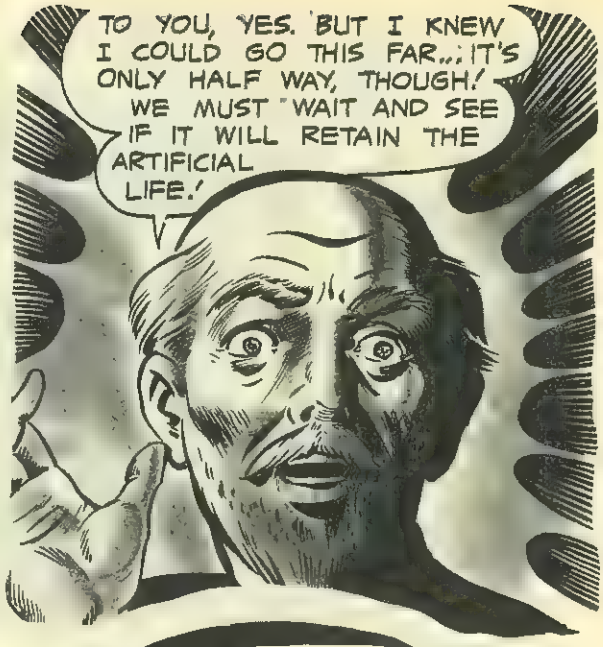
CINDY ANSWERED THE INSISTANT KNOCKING AT THE DOOR OF HER HOME, BUT THERE WAS NO SMILE OF WELCOME AS SHE ADDRESSED THE STRANGER...



THE ELATED PROFESSOR, HIS ANXIOUS DAUGHTER AND THE AMUSED REPORTER MOVED INTO THE LABORATORY...



...AND JACK SLATE SENSED A TERRIFIC SCOOP...
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT A WONDERFUL THING YOU'VE DONE, SIR! IT'S UN-BELIEVABLE!


TO YOU, YES. BUT I KNEW I COULD GO THIS FAR... IT'S ONLY HALF WAY, THOUGH! WE MUST WAIT AND SEE IF IT WILL RETAIN THE ARTIFICIAL LIFE!

WON'T THE-- THE THING NEED FOOD?
YES. IT'S BEEN ON BLOOD PLASMA BUT FOR THE PAST FEW HOURS IT'S ACTED HUNGRY FOR SOMETHING MORE...

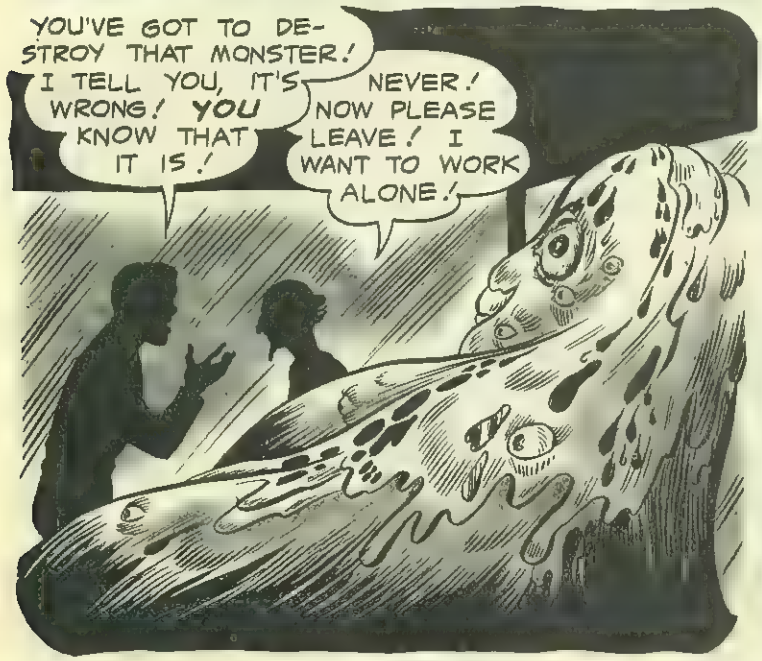
I'VE GOT TO TRY THIS RAW MEAT! NOW WE'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS...

GONE! IT SEEMED TO FADE AWAY INTO THE MASS!
OH, DADDY THAT'S HORRIBLE!

HOW RIGHT YOU ARE! GIVES ONE CHILLS! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
Y-YES! I THINK SO!

PROFESSOR, THAT THING COULD GET OUT OF HAND, AND...
QUIET, PLEASE! I MUST OBSERVE ITS RAPID GROWTH!

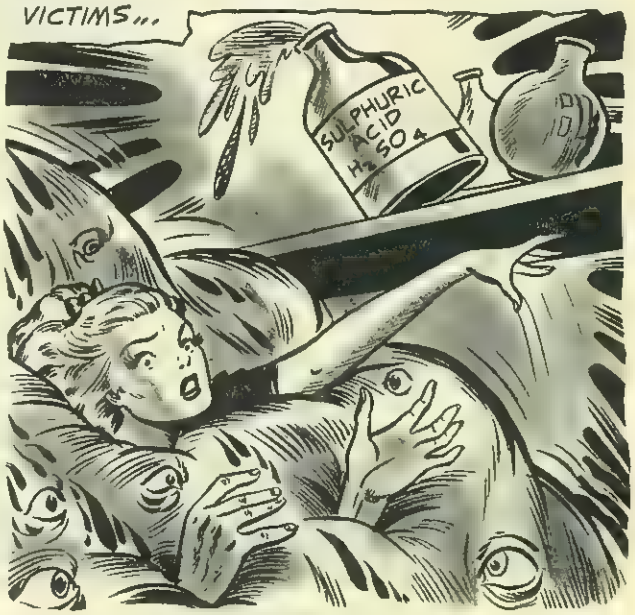
YOU SEE! NOW THE WORLD CAN REALLY HAVE NEWS! YOU MAY TELL THEM, YOUNG MAN! HERE IS YOUR STORY!

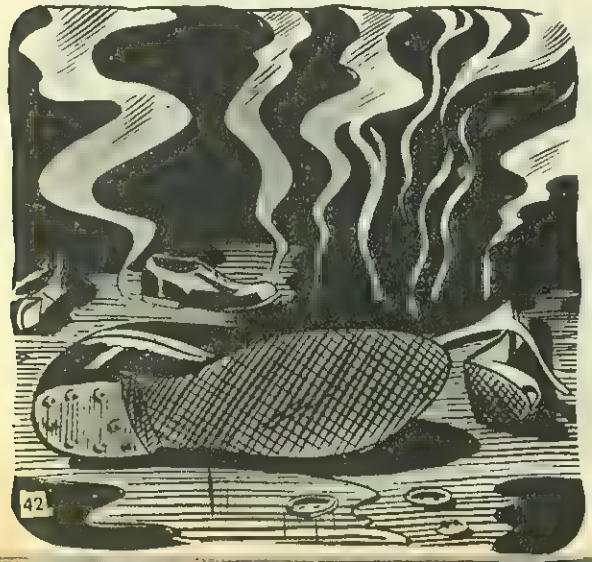

YOU'VE GOT TO DESTROY THAT MONSTER! I TELL YOU, IT'S WRONG! YOU KNOW THAT IT IS!
NEVER! NOW PLEASE LEAVE! I WANT TO WORK ALONE!

...CINDY BECKONED JACK TO FOLLOW HER, AND...
THANK GOODNESS YOU'VE GOT A GUN! BUT WILL IT WORK ON...ON THAT THING?
SO YOU'RE ON MY SIDE, EH! THEN WAIT...UNTIL HE LEAVES...

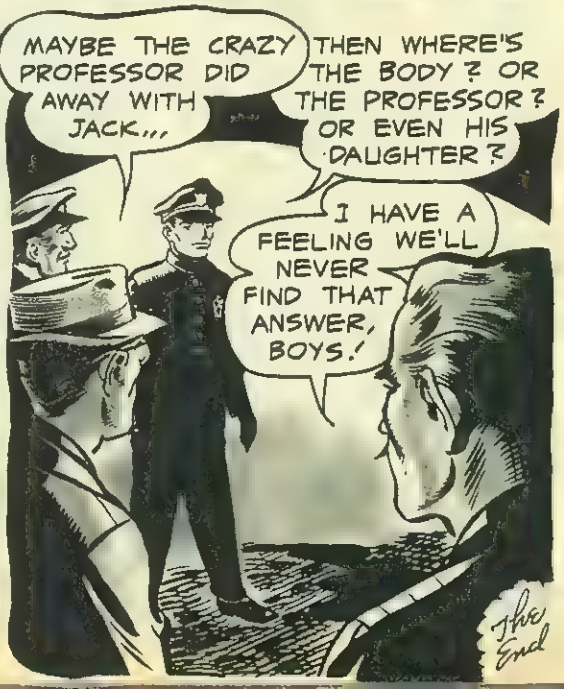
THOUGHT YOUR FATHER WOULD NEVER RETIRE! GREAT SCOTT! LOOK AT IT NOW!
DREADFUL! WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY IT! OH, HURRY BEFORE...

PROFESSOR!
GET AWAY FROM MY EXPERIMENT!





...WHEN A SEARCH FOR JACK SLATE, REPORTER, TOOK PLACE, THE INVESTIGATORS DIDN'T FIND A SINGLE CLUE TO THE STRANGE DISAPPEARANCE OF ALL...



IF YOU HAVE A DELICATE STOMACH, YOU'D BETTER SKIP THIS LITTLE BLOOD-CURDLING CULINARY CATASTROPHE THAT'S JUST...

-YEECH!

BUT IT WAS EASY TO SEE CECILY'S POINT OF VIEW! EVEN IF YOU LIKED HER TYPE, YOU'D NEED PRETTY BAD VISION TO CALL HER PRETTY. BREWSTER WAS JUST ABOUT THE LAST STRAW IN THE SEA OF MATRIMONY...AND SHE ***GRABBED*** HIM!

SURE THING, BREWSTER. I'LL MARRY YOU WHENEVER YOU SAY!

THE HAPPY COUPLE RECEIVED MA'S BLESSING! MRS. AKINS TOOK HER PROSPECTIVE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW ASIDE TO BRIEF HER ON THE FACTS OF LIFE!

THE WAY TO A MAN'S HEART IS THROUGH HIS STOMACH, CECILY... AND THAT'S ESPECIALLY TRUE ABOUT BREWSTER! NOT THAT THE DEAR BOY'S A ***GLUTTON...***

...AND EVEN THOUGH HE DOESN'T LOOK IT, HE'S VERY DELICATE AND EVERYTHING MUST BE PREPARED ***JUST RIGHT*** FOR HIM! I HAVE ALL HIS RECIPES HERE! YOU CAN COPY THEM NOW!

THE WEDDING WAS SIMPLE, THE BRIDE AND GROOM EMBARKED ON THEIR HONEYMOON, BLISSFULLY DREAMING OF THEIR FUTURE...

I'LL HAVE CHINTZ CURTAINS IN THE LIVING ROOM, AND COLONIAL FURNITURE...

SHE CAN MAKE STUFFED PEPPERS ON MONDAY AND CHICKEN PAPRIKASH ON TUESDAY AND ON WEDNSDAY... UMMM... LEMME SEE...

EVERYTHING WAS FINE UNTIL BREWSTER RETURNED FROM WORK, DROOLING FOR HIS WIFE'S FIRST HOMECOOKED MEAL...

PHTOOO! TOO MUCH SALT!

I'M SORRY, BREWSTER. I... I'LL USE LESS NEXT TIME.

SORRY? WHAT GOOD DOES ***THAT*** DO? GIMME THAT TEN DOLLARS I GAVE YOU! YOU DON'T DESERVE A NEW DRESS IF YOU CAN'T PREPARE A DECENT MEAL FOR YOUR HUSBAND! I'LL SPEND IT. I'LL SPEND IT ON A ***GOOD DINNER!***

THAT WAS BREWSTER IN ONE OF HIS MILDER MOODS... BUT AS TIME WORE ON AND CECILY'S COOKING FAILED TO IMPROVE, HE STOPPED BEING SO PATIENT...

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU STEAK HAS TO BE COOKED ***FIVE MINUTES ON EACH SIDE! NO MORE... NO LESS!***

Y-YES, BREWSTER!

CECILY TRIED HARD, BUT EVEN WHEN MA WAS BROUGHT IN TO HELP WITH SOUND, MOTHERLY ADVISE, IT DIDN'T DO MUCH GOOD!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! EVEN AN ***IMBECILE*** COULD FOLLOW THESE RECIPES! WHY CAN'T ***YOU?*** DON'T YOU LOVE BREWSTER? DON'T YOU WANT TO MAKE HIM HAPPY?

POOR CECILY... SHE JUST COULDN'T MAKE THE GRADE. HOW COULD YOU BLAME BREWSTER FOR BEING A LITTLE ANNOYED?

IT'S ***VILE!*** I WOULDN'T THROW SUCH SLOP IN A PIGPEN! GO AHEAD... ***TASTE IT YOURSELF!***

NO! BREWSTER, NO!

SHE JUST DOESN'T DESERVE A GOOD HUSBAND LIKE YOU!

W-WAIT FOR ME, BREWSTER!

MOTHER AND I WILL GO TO THE MOVIES WITHOUT YOU! YOU STAY HOME AND READ UP ON THOSE RECIPES!

AFTER A YEAR, POOR BREWSTER WAS SO UNDERFED HE ONLY GAINED EIGHT POUNDS... AND CECILY WAS ***REALLY FED UP!*** ONE DAY SHE PACKED HER THINGS AND STARTED TO GO, BUT SHE LOOKED AT BREWSTER'S PICTURE...

I--I CAN'T GO! I--I HAVE TO STAY ON!

YOU'RE RIGHT! IT WASN'T LOVE THAT KEPT CECILY AT BREWSTER'S SIDE! SHE JUST COULDN'T LEAVE WITHOUT REVENGE! FOR A WHILE SHE THOUGHT OF VARIOUS PLEASANT WAYS OF KILLING HIM, BUT...

IT'S NO GOOD KILLING HIM! IT'LL BE TOO QUICK THAT WAY! I HAVE TO MAKE HIM SUFFER THE WAY ***I*** SUFFERED!

MOST GOOD IDEAS AREN'T PLANNED...THEY COME OUT OF THE BLUE AS SHEER, SUDDEN INSPIRATION--AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS WITH CECILY!

MOM'S COMING TODAY EITHER ON THE AFTERNOON OR EVENING TRAIN! FOR ONCE TRY TO MAKE SOMETHING A DOG WOULDN'T ***SPIT ON!***

YES, BREWSTER. I--I HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL IN MIND!

THAT EVENING WHEN BREWSTER RETURNED, CECILY HAD EVERYTHING PREPARED...

MOM HERE?

YOU SEE HER?

GUESS SHE COULDN'T MAKE THE AFTERNOON TRAIN! ALL RIGHT...WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? BRING IN THE MESS OF ***GARBAGE*** YOU COOKED TONIGHT!

BUT BREWSTER WAS IN FOR A SURPRISE! HE POSITIVELY DRIBBLED WITH DELIGHT AS HE DAINTILY SHOVELED IN THE FIRST MOUTHFUL!

SA-AY! THIS IS GOOD! WHAT IS IT?

SOMETHING SPECIAL. YOU'LL FIND OUT!

YOU'RE FINALLY GETTING THERE! THIS IS (SLOP, SLOP) THE ***BEST DISH*** YOU EVER MADE!

I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT, DEAR!

GIMME MORE OF... ***HEY... WHAT'S THIS? WH-WHY... IT... IT'S MOM'S RING!*** HOW DID THAT GET HERE?

DON'T YOU KNOW?

GOOD HEAVENS! I DIDN'T NOTICE! THERE'S MOM'S VALISE! SHE...SHE ***IS*** HERE! YOU... YOU DIDN'T...

WHAT DO ***YOU*** THINK, YOU FAT, GREEDY PIG!

I-I-I-I-A-A-ATE-HER-R

AT THAT MOMENT THE BELL RANG, BUT BREWSTER DIDN'T HEAR IT. HE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR THE CONVERSATION THAT DRIFTED IN WHEN CECILY WENT TO THE DOOR!
HELLO, CECILY. THANKS FOR GETTING ME THAT THEATRE TICKET. IT WAS WORTH MISSING DINNER FOR THE SHOW!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, MA!
I ATE HER... I ATE HER...

BY THE WAY, I FOUND THE RING YOU... ER... LOST! IT... ER... ROLLED UNDER THE KITCHEN SINK!
THANK YOU, CECILY... AND DID BREWSTER ENJOY THAT SPECIAL RECIPE I PREPARED FOR HIM?

I... I... ATE HER!
I DON'T KNOW. HE SEEMED KIND OF UPSET! MAYBE YOU BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT HIM!

AGGG... AAAHH... AGGG!
EEEEHH! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
HE WAS ALL RIGHT WHEN HE CAME HOME! IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING HE ATE! I GUESS YOU AIN'T SUCH A GOOD COOK AFTER ALL, MA! HA-HA-HA!
THE END!

ESCAPE from HELL!

THE WISE MEN HAVE SAID, "WHERE THERE IS LIFE THERE IS HOPE." BUT DOES THIS MAXIM HOLD TRUE WHERE THERE IS NO LIFE? RICHARD BENTON WAS DETERMINED TO FIND OUT... FOR RICHARD BENTON HAD TO "ESCAPE FROM DEATH."

WAKEN, RICHARD BENTON! OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE NEW WORLD WHICH AWAITS YOU!

WHAT... WHERE AM I?...

YOU, RICHARD BENTON, ARE DEAD! ALONE AND IN HIDING FROM THE FORCES THAT SEEK TO BRING YOU TO JUSTICE FOR YOUR MORTAL SINS, YOU HAVE BEEN INTERCEPTED BY THE BONY HAND OF DEATH!

YOUR MIND IS FILLED WITH QUESTIONS, AND A FINGER OF SUSPICION BEGINS TO BORE ITS WAY INTO YOUR MIND, BUT LOOK THERE! A PINPOINT OF LIGHT! RUN TO IT...RUN...FOR THERE LIES YOUR DESTINATION!

I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT... GOT TO KNOW...

AND NOW LOOK! LOOK ABOUT YOU! SEE WHERE YOUR MORTAL JOURNEY HAS ENDED!

NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE!

YES! RICHARD BENTON! YES! YOU ARE IN HELL!

NO... NO... NO... NO...

WHAT ARE THESE THAT COME BEFORE YOU? WHAT MONSTERS ARE THESE?

NO... STAY BACK... DON'T TOUCH ME!

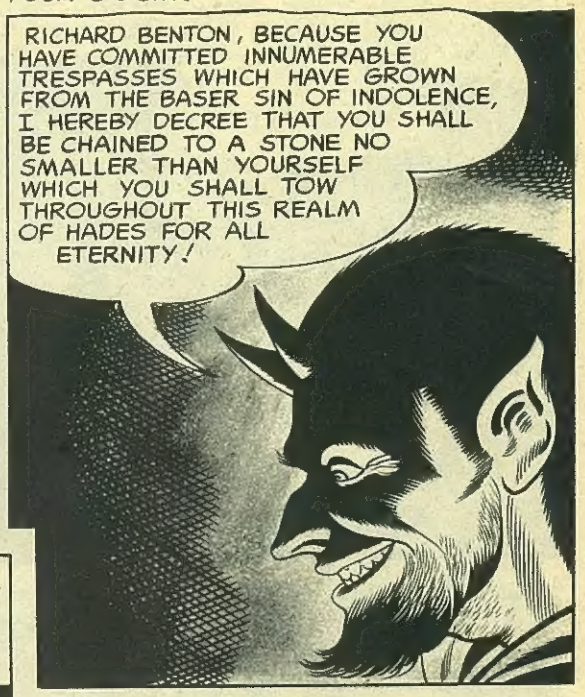
COME, COME, RICHARD, SURELY YOU WOULD NOT DENY THE LITTLE CREATURES THEIR PLEASURES. SEE HOW JOYFULLY THEY STAB YOU WITH THEIR SPEARS...HOW THEY HOWL WITH GLEE AS THEIR BLAZING TORCHES SINGE YOUR HAIR AND SEAR YOUR FLESH...

NO!... STOP! AGH! AAAGHH!

GO WITH THEM, RICHARD! GO... FOR THEY WISH YOU TO MEET THEIR MASTER!

WH...WHERE ARE THEY TAKING ME?

AND NOW, YOU WHOSE MORTAL SINS ARE COUNTLESS, MEET HIM TO WHOM YOUR LIFE WAS DEDICATED...
WELCOME, RICHARD BENTON, TO THE REALM OF HADES!
SATAN!


AND NOW, LISTEN CAREFULLY TO YOUR MASTER'S VOICE AS HE PRONOUNCES YOUR DOOM!
RICHARD BENTON, BECAUSE YOU HAVE COMMITTED INNUMERABLE TRESPASSES WHICH HAVE GROWN FROM THE BASER SIN OF INDOLENCE, I HEREBY DECREE THAT YOU SHALL BE CHAINED TO A STONE NO SMALLER THAN YOURSELF WHICH YOU SHALL TOW THROUGHOUT THIS REALM OF HADES FOR ALL ETERNITY!

POOR, POOR RICHARD! IS THE STONE HEAVY? IS THE INTENSE HEAT OF HADES SO UNBEARABLE? DOES THE ACRID SMELL OF BURNING BRIMSTONE SCORE YOUR LUNGS? SURELY YOU ARE NOT ALREADY EXHAUSTED WHEN YOU YET HAVE ALL ETERNITY AHEAD OF YOU!
THE DEMONS WON'T LET ME REST! CAN'T GO ON... CAN'T... THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT... THERE MUST BE...

WHAT'S THAT?... WHAT IS THAT YOU SEE, RICHARD? A PATCH OF BLUE SKY BREAKING THE BLACK, STYGIAN NIGHT... THAT RAY OF SUNLIGHT FROM BEHIND THOSE FORBIDDING CLIFFS? NO, RICHARD... DO NOT PLACE YOUR HOPES IN SUCH INTANGIBLES!
THAT MUST BE IT... THE WAY OUT... IF I CAN JUST REACH THE TOP OF THAT MOUNTAIN...

NO, NO, RICHARD... WHY WASTE YOUR STRENGTH? ALREADY YOUR BODY IS TORN AND BLEEDING IN A THOUSAND PLACES! YOUR MUSCLES SCREAM IN AGONY AS YOU STRAIN THEM BEYOND ALL ENDURANCE! STOP, RICHARD... GO BACK!
THE DEMONS... THEY'RE TRYING TO STOP ME... BUT I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE TOP... I'LL BE FREE... FREE...!

THE SKY IS BLUE ABOVE YOU, RICHARD... THE SUNLIGHT GROWS BRIGHTER! PAY NO ATTENTION TO IT! IT MEANS NOTHING! THERE IS NO FREEDOM BEYOND THE MOUNTAIN! GIVE UP THIS INSANE DREAM!
ALMOST... THERE... GOT TO... GO... ON... FEW MORE FEET...

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SO YOU'VE REACHED THE TOP AND ABOVE YOU SHINES A GOLDEN SUN IN AN AZURE SKY... BUT HAVE YOU FOUND FREEDOM, RICHARD? HAVE YOU ACHIEVED YOUR DREAM?!

LOOK DOWN THE OTHER SIDE, RICHARD! WHAT DO YOU SEE? IS THAT YOUR FREEDOM? IS THAT WHAT YOU LABORED A CENTURY TO ATTAIN? LOOK! LOOK!

NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE! IT CAN'T! IT CAN'T!...

CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

THE END

BUT IT IS, RICHARD! HELL! HELL! AND MORE HELL! AND WHO IS THAT? A MAN CLIMBING UP THE SIDE?... ANOTHER FOOL PULLING A STONE?... AN IDIOT BEING PLAGUED BY DEMONS?... GREET HIM, RICHARD! EMBRACE HIM! WEEP WITH HIM... FOR HE SHALL SOON KNOW AS YOU ALREADY KNOW... THAT THERE IS NO ESCAPE... THERE IS **NO ESCAPE FROM HELL!**